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Near East/South Asia Report

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EGYPT'S 'CLEAR, OPEN' POLICY SEEN CAUSE OF SYRIAN 'RANCOR'

JN040806 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 3 Feb 87 p 5

[Editorial: "Reasons for the Syrian Rancor Against Egypt and its People"]

[Text] The details announced by President Husni Mubarak about his accidental meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad during the fifth Islamic summit in Kuwait entail many important facts headed by the fact that the Egyptian policy which is based on clarity and openness is the main reason for this amount of the Syrian regime's rancor and hatred against Egypt and its people.

The Syrian regime, as President Mubarak indicated for example, hopes to reach a peaceful solution. The Syrian president announced before the October war that it was a war aimed at giving momentum to the [Middle East] issue which, at that time, was at a standstill. The Syrian regime hastened to follow Egypt's steps to achieve an agreement on the disengagement of force. Therefore, the talks about steadfastness and confrontation and calls for struggle are all false calls which are aimed only at achieving certain personal interests.

The Syrian regime, whose president announces that he is looking forward to a peaceful solution, rejects the Egyptian call for benefiting from what Egypt has achieved in this regard only because it is Egypt making the call. It is not an assertion of Egypt's leadership to have the reins of initiative! This is the secret of the deep grudge of the Syrian regime which is nurturing dreams of Arab leadership. How does the head of the Syrian regime dare to enter into negotiations for a peaceful settlement along with Egypt while he receives so much protection money from certain Arab countries by declaring that Syria is a confrontation state with Israel with whose officials the Syrian regime meets everywhere to coordinate policies?

Even if some have forgotten, we did not forget a statement by a senior Israeli official 2 years ago in which he said that Israel is confident that no military confrontation with Syria will occur because Syria honors its commitments!

After this we can see the reasons for the bitter Syrian attack on the Egyptian leadership and people moments after al-Asad and President Mubarak agreed to exchange envoys--an attack which was aimed at inducing the Arab and Islamic countries to impose an economic and political boycott against Egypt.

What caused the Syrian regime to lose its senses and caused its wild and ineffective blows is that the Egyptian presence at the Kuwait Islamic summit succeeded very well in revealing facts before the representatives of 44 Arab and Islamic countries. If what happened has proved the falseness of the Syrian claims and the reality of its suspect plots against the Arab solidarity, the Arabs are now called upon not to isolate themselves by their own hand, not to close their eyes to clear facts, and to proceed on the correct path through facing up to their responsibilities and self-denial.

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CSO: 4500/63

EGYPT

ENVOY TO ISRAEL NOTES EFFORTS TOWARD PLO, JORDAN UNITY

DAVAR Report

TA091258 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 9 Feb 87 p 3

[Report by Yosi Leibowitz]

[Text] "Israel must understand that if no Palestinian figure participates in negotiations, which I hope will be held in 1987, and if no suitable solution is found to the Palestinian problem, the dispute in our region will not be resolved." This was stated yesterday by Egyptian Ambassador Dr Muhammad Basyuni during an official visit to 'Akko.

Dr Basyuni said that Egypt will strive to bring together the Jordanian and PLO positions so that the Palestinian problem can be resolved within the framework of a Jordanian-PLO confederation.

He added that Egypt insists that peace between the two nations not be made at the expense of Egypt's relations with the Arab countries. According to him, the recent Islamic summit proved that Egypt has returned to its natural status among the Arab people, and this constitutes a decisive blow to the rejectionist countries which have opposed the peace process.

The mayor of 'Akko, Eli de Castro, asked the visitor to ask President Mubarak, on his behalf, to pardon Yosef Tahan [Israeli facing a death sentence in Egypt for drug smuggling] "This is a humanitarian request for the sake of his family and children," the mayor added.

JERUSALEM POST Version

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 9 February p 2 carries a similar report, adding: "Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni yesterday agreed to deliver a plea to President Husni Mubarak to spare the life of convicted drug smugglers Yosef Tahan."

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LONDON MAGAZINE INTERVIEWS INTERIOR MINISTER

PM051503 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 31 Jan-1 Feb 87 pp 18, 19

[Interview with Egyptian Minister of Interior Major General Zaki Badr by Ahmad 'Abd-al-Majid "during a recent visit to Baghdad"]

[Excerpts] [introductory passage omitted] ['Abd al-Majid] Some of the Egyptian universities were recently the scene of strikes which were followed by arrests and trials as well as by statements that some of the fundamentalist elements were behind these incidents. What is the significance of what is happening in the Egyptian universities?

[Badr] In actual fact these incidents are very small but in some media sources they become material for false propaganda. In Egypt we have 14 universities including large numbers of students. Cairo University includes 120,000 to 130,000 students and some other universities include 30,000 to 35,000 or 70,000 to 75,000 students and so on. If some weak voices are able to utter a few words because there is freedom and democracy, this is insignificant and in no way constitutes a danger to security or causes any harm. Frankly, we apply the laws against whoever violates them in any way, be it a minor violation or major one. Some people pick on an insignificant incident and magnify it to make it seem extraordinary. But let me reassure everybody, Arabs and foreigners, that Egypt is open to all; there is no restriction on any Egyptian, Arab, or foreigner.

['Abd-al-Majid] The economic situation in Egypt seems to be difficult because of price increases and the demand for the settlement of foreign debts. Does this not have any effect on the internal security situation; in other words, if the Egyptian economic situation was good there would have been no cause for disturbances to break out from time to time.

[Badr] I would say without beating around the bush that economic difficulties are a characteristic of the modern age worldwide. There is no question that security is affected by the economic situation but, thank God, our economic situation is improving and difficulties are being gradually overcome. However these difficulties have only a limited effect on security. The Egyptian citizen endures hardships like all the citizens in the struggling Arab countries and all the strong peoples that are faced with difficulties and overcome them.

['Abd-al-Majid] It is said that you are a strict and very thorough person. Is this attitude dictated by the present situation or is it a personal style of yours that will last only as long as you are minister of the interior? Is this strictness a kind of a protective shield for the democratic experiment or a manifestation of intolerance with it?

[Badr] As a security man I am accustomed to appreciating the importance of being firm and strict in the application of the law against those who violate it. I have been like this and will continue to be so. I will apply the law equally in times of war and peace and at any other time because violation of the law is undesirable and unacceptable.

['Abd-al-Majid] How do you view Egyptian-Iraqi relations?

[Badr] Iraq is a sisterly country and we are linked to it by good ties. Presidents and peoples of both countries share common sincere feelings and stand in solidarity and support one another in all spheres. The biggest Egyptian community abroad is in Iraq, and it is serving the Iraqi people and beloved Iraq.

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KUNA INTERVIEWS EGYPT'S 'ABD-AL-MAJID ON ICO

LD230957 Kuwait KUNA in English 0807 GMT 23 Jan 87

[Article by Salah Tayel]

[Text] Kuwait, 23 Jan (KUNA)--Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid today praised Kuwait's determination to convene the fifth Islamic summit at the fixed date and place, saying it reflects a 'clear and uncompromising stance'.

The official denied, in an exclusive interview with KUNA, inclusion of a proposal on the Monday Islamic summit's agenda of forming a joint Arab force to separate between Iraqi and Iranian troops as a first stage in halting the ongoing war, started in September 1980.

Al-Majid also denied that Egypt has a plan to end the Gulf conflict but indicated that Islamic foreign ministers, now meeting in Kuwait, are consulting over a draft statement on the Iraq-Iran war, which would be referred to Moslem leaders at their conference on Monday.

Regretting Iran's absence from the Islamic summit, the Egyptian foreign minister said Tehran "should have attended this summit instead of ignoring it", and denied that Cairo has attempted to persuade Iran to take part in the summit.

He supported the recent call made by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to hold an urgent Security Council session, at foreign ministers level, to discuss means for ending the Iraq-Iran war.

The official indicated that in his summit address, President Husni Mubarak will concentrate on the Gulf war and underscored the summit's importance in view of the great challenges and problems now faced by the Arab and Moslem nation.

Speaking on Egypt's participation in the Islamic summit, following restoration of its seat on the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), al-Majid said "it is a positive implication. We feel that the current understanding of Egypt's policies is better than in the years before." He emphasized Egypt's determination on renouncing differences and avoiding marginal disputes during the conference's deliberations to guarantee its success, noting that Egypt has, from the outset, strongly opposed attempts at changing the summit's date and venue.

The official expressed optimism on the fifth Islamic summit's success in tackling the main issues, including the Iraq-Iran war, the Middle East problem, the Afghan crisis and praised the present trend, vividly reflected during the expert and foreign ministers meetings, of avoiding disputes and deleting off controversial topics from the summit's agenda.

Al-Majid concluded that Egypt would raise at the summit a proposal for establishing an international center in Cairo for study and application of Prophet Mohammed's biography and Sunna as the second source of Islamic legislation after the Holy Quran.

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EGYPTIAN MINISTER ON WAR MATERIEL PRODUCTION

JN061205 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 3 Feb 87 p 3

[Interview with Eng Jamal al-Sayyid, Egyptian minister of state for war production, by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im in Cairo, date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted on Egypt's weapons production in the past century] ['Abd-al-Mun'im] What has become of the long-standing history of weapons production? Was this affected, for example, by the emigration of Egyptian workers to Turkey during the Ottoman Empire or were there specific political pressures which prevented Egypt from continuing to produce its weapons?

[Al-Sayyid] Every era has its specific traints, but if you review history, you will find that in all eras small countries or Third World countries faced difficulties when trying to produce weapons because most of these countries, including Egypt, experienced colonialism for a long time. Colonialist countries did not want colonized countries to produce weapons because weapons are a major factor of security. Without the production of your own weapons, you cannot have security.

Egypt has had the necessary basics for a weapons industry since 1948. However, when the Soviets came to Egypt, they killed this industry. The Soviets told us: What is the cost of the ammunition you produce? We told them. They then said to us: Fine, we will provide you with ammunition at half this cost because it is a pity for you to spend so much on the production of ammunition. Unfortunately, the Soviets succeeded in killing this industry during their presence in Egypt. This stage of affairs even led to the merger of the War Production Ministry with the Ministry of Industry in 1968 and 1969. This was further proof that colonialist countries, whether Eastern or Western, did not want small countries to produce weapons. Colonialist countries first of all seek to undermine national security and one of the basic requisites of national security is that you produce your own weapons so that you may use them when needed.

['Abd-al-Mun'im] What is the current status of Egypt's war production?

[Al-Sayyid] At first, our plans were to produce the ammunition we need. Thank God, we now produce more than 90 percent of the ammunition we need. There are some types of ammunition which we could produce but do not because it is economically unwise to produce them as our requirements for these are minimal. Our role is not only restricted to the production of ammunition. It also consists of developing it. We now have ammunition which penetrates armored vehicles and other types of vehicles and achieve deeper penetration of armored vehicles from long range. These need to be constantly developed. We produce medium-caliber and heavy-caliber ammunition for guns and Howitzers as well as ammunition for Eastern and Western weapons. We are developing ammunition to meet our Armed Forces' requirements in light of past battle experiences. This has made us produce some types of ammunition which do not exist in the arsenals of the Western countries because we have gained experience in the method of reverse engineering [al-handasah al-'aksiyah] and are designing new types of ammunition. We have become producers and designers of ammunition which are currently being tested by the Armed Forces.

With respect to weapons, we have developed pistols, and we produce short-barreled machine guns, rifles, light machine guns, and medium antiaircraft guns as well as Howitzers. We are developing these and other types of weapons. We have also started to produce gun barrels which are mounted on armored vehicles. We are developing the antiaircraft guns we have produced and are mounting them on armored vehicles which are also equipped with surface-to-air missiles that were produced in Egypt by the Arab war industries authority. We are now producing ammunition and weapons and have reached the stage of producing guns. The production of guns is not an easy thing to do because it is a complicated technical process. We are also in the process of producing the first Egyptian tank. The tank program is proceeding smoothly and we are currently repairing tanks. The only thing that remains to be done is to choose the type of tank we will produce. The tank plant is being built in accordance with the set plan and we hope it will be successful. We must note here that the U.S. side is not objecting to anything with respect to the production of the tank. It is true that there are some difficulties. Nothing is easy in this world. The U.S. side sincerely helps when it finds that you have the ability to produce this or that weapon. If it finds you do not have this ability, it keeps procrastinating until you acquire this ability. We have completed our war industries by establishing the optics plant for sighting equipment, and the Arab war industries authority is producing the Tucano training plane in cooperation with Brazil, as well as some parts of fighter planes, not to mention the plants for the production of surface-to-surface missiles and antiaircraft missiles. Our plants always seek to achieve complementarity by first processing the raw material, whether iron or other materials, or producing various types of chemicals and explosives. We also have electric and electronics plants.

['Abd-al-Mun'im] We have heard about an integrated Egyptian system. What is it?

[Al-Sayyid] Modern armed forces no longer depend on individual weapons. There is great development in weapons which are now called weapons systems. The aircraft is a system in itself. So is the warship. The ground defense unit has become a system. Therefore, the individual weapon no longer meets the needs of this age whether in terms of speed, accuracy, or the size of the forces. The reduction of manpower requires more weapons systems. The upgrading of efficiency requires mechanical, automatic, and electronic systems.

Because we must keep pace with modern battle requirements, we started to develop these systems. One of these systems is the 23-mm gun and the Egyptian 'Ayn al-Saqr missile equipped with a radar system and produced in Egypt, both of which were put on exhibition, thus making it an integrated air defense unit. It is one of the most modern systems in the world. We produce all the parts in Egypt. We will replace the U.S. vehicle used in this system with an Egyptian vehicle which will be produced in Egypt. We will also equip this system with fire control devices. We are currently developing this modern system because our Egyptian Armed Forces always seek to achieve higher development levels. We will develop it and begin mass production as soon as a decision on its final shape is made.

['Abd-al-Mun'im] What type of production is the Egyptian war industries proud of?

[Al-Sayyid] For the first time, we have the basics of a military industry. This is a very great achievement. We all saw the Egyptian wing in the arms exhibition last year and the various types of weapons that were exhibited. Weapons producers from most countries in the world showed respect for Egypt, and some of the countries have asked us to produce some types of chemical materials and weapons. This is the first time this has happened.

We must all be proud that we produce missile launchers and field surface-to-surface missiles. We have achieved all this on our own and through what is technically called the method of reverse engineering.

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CSO: 4500/63

EGYPT

TWO OF FIVE EARLY WARNING E2C PLANES ARRIVE

NC022125 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2008 GMT 2 Feb 87

[Embargoed until 2200 GMT]

[Excerpt] Cairo, 2 Feb (MENA)--Two early warning planes of the E2C type, called "Hawkeye," arrived in Cairo this evening. They are the first of five planes of this type that Egypt is buying from the United States. The others are scheduled to arrive by the end of this year.

The two planes, flown in from the United States by Egyptian pilots, arrived at one of the Egyptian air bases. Major General 'Ala'-al-Din Barakat, chief of staff of the Air Forces, was present when the planes arrived. He said: This type of plane was chosen after long study and great effort. The choice was made not because of the type of plane alone, but also because of the equipment inside it. Egyptian specialists, in cooperation with their U.S. counterparts, were able to adapt this plane's technology to its use in the Egyptian theater of operations and according to Egyptian doctrine. He pointed out that modifications included radar, communications, and detection equipment.

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CSO: 4500/63

BRITISH OFFICIAL DISCUSSES VISIT, DEPARTS

NC051022 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 5 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 5 Feb (MENA)--Lord Trefgarne, British minister of state for defense procurement, left Cairo for his country this morning following a 2-day visit to Egypt, during which he met with Dr 'Atif Sidqi, the prime minister; Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production; Jamal al-Sayyid Ibrahim, minister of state for war production; and a number of other officials.

Lord Trefgarne said that his discussions with the Egyptian officials were useful, constructive, and fruitful and that his visit to Cairo has been one of his most successful.

He added that the purpose of the visit was to explain to the friendly Egyptian Government the support the British Government can extend to Egypt in the sphere of war production and defense.

In answer to a question on a possible British role in the Gulf war, he said that there is no definite position on this matter. He noted, however, that the continuation of the conflict is regrettable in light of the losses of life on both sides. He said that Britain wants the two countries to sit down together to put an end to the tragedy.

On his country's stand toward the Lebanese crisis, he said that there are British nationals in Lebanon and British hostages, noting that the British Government is profoundly worried about this critical situation and is seeking the immediate release of those hostages and the resolution of the crisis.

Regarding his expectations about new agreements between the two governments, he said that he came to Cairo to discuss ways to complete former agreements and implement them so that new agreements can be formulated in the near future.

Lord Trefgarne was seen off at the airport by Dr Jamal al-Sayyid Ibrahim.

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MINISTRY SOURCE ON CONTAMINATED MILK REPORTS

NC041412 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Feb 87

[Excerpts] Commenting on news agency reports that contaminated powdered milk had arrived at Alexandria port, an official Foreign Ministry source told our correspondent that originating documents on any goods containing foodstuffs for human and animal consumption cannot be approved until a certificate is submitted from competent government authorities in the country of origin indicating that these foodstuffs have not been exposed to radioactivity. He said that the Foreign Ministry and its diplomatic and consular missions abroad have taken this measure since the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

The official said that the Foreign Ministry is paying special attention to this issue and has asked the Egyptian ambassador to the FRG to contact the West German Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Economy, and Environment to voice Egypt's rejection of any foodstuffs that the FRG authorities would not agree to sell on the local market. He will stress the need for measures necessary to ascertain the safety of foodstuffs exported to Egypt and to ensure that any activities by the private sector in the FRG to sneak foodstuffs into Egypt are prevented.

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CSO: 4500/63

BRIEFS

ITALIAN LOAN--Cairo, 4 Feb (MENA)--The Italian Government is giving Egypt an easy-term \$35-million loan to be used for the modernization of fertilizer factories in Suez. [Excerpt] [Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 4 Feb 87 NC] /9738

NO CONTAMINATED MILK--An official cabinet source stated today that there is no powdered milk that has been exposed to radioactivity in Egyptian territory or ports. He stressed that all imported foodstuffs undergo examination to detect radioactivity at every point of entry. The most up-to-date equipment is used and stringent quality control is applied, and this has been the case ever since the Chernobyl accident. [Text] [Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Feb 87 NC] /9738

MUBARAK-AMIR MEET--President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, who arrived in Kuwait this morning to attend the meetings of the fifth Islamic summit conference, has received his highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait. The meeting was held at President Mubarak's place of residence in the Palace of Conferences. [Text] [Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Jan 87 JN] /9738

SYRIAN GROUP LAUDS MUBARAK--Cairo, 3 Feb (MENA)--The National Alliance Bureau for the Liberation of Syria [Maktab al-Tahaluf al-Watani Li-tahrir Surya] has denounced the policies of Hafiz al-Asad's treasonous regime aimed at isolating Egypt and preventing it from playing its leading pan-Arab role. In a cable to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, the bureau praised the Egyptian leader's noble stand in rising above trivialities and refusing to abase himself during the Islamic summit conference. The bureau added: The Syrian people, who are suffering from oppression, injustice, and domination unprecedented in their long history, are looking to you and to the great brotherly Egyptian people to assist Syria in its current ordeal. [Text] [Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 3 Feb 87 NC] /9738

NEW OIL DEPOSITS--Cairo, 11 Feb (MENA)--New oil deposits have been discovered in the (Sha'b 'Ali) oil field in the southern area of the Gulf of Suez. According to an Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation official, three wells drilled in this field will yield an initial output of 15,000 barrels per day. He added that intensive development of the field will increase its reserves to 35 million barrels. [Summary] [Cairo MENA in Arabic 0955 GMT 11 Feb 87 NC] /9738

CSO: 4500/63

BRIEFS

MOROCCO-UAE ACCORDS--Rabat, Feb 27 (MAP)--Morocco and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) concluded here Thursday two cooperation accords in the fields of telecommunications and air transport. The telecommunications accord initialed by Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Mohamed Laensar and his visiting peer of the United Arab Emirates Muhammad Sa'id al-Mulla provides for further enhancement of cooperation and technical assistance. It also provides for extra telephone connections, training and exchange of experience and know-how. The aviation accord signed by Minister of Transport Mohamed Bouamoud and Al-Mulfla confirmed the agreement concluded by the two countries in 1982 on a Casablanca-Abu Dhabi connection by the Moroccan airlines "Royal Air Maroc". The two sides also explored cooperation opportunities especially in airport management, meteorology, and civil aviation. The UAE minister was earlier received by Moroccan Premier Azeddine Laraki. [Text] [Rabat MAP in English 1208 GMT 27 Feb 87 LD] /6662

CSO: 4500/68

AL-MAHDI, SUDAN MINISTER REPORTEDLY INVOLVED IN DISPUTE

JN051354 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1025 GMT 5 Feb 87

[Text] Khartoum, 5 Feb (SUNA)--The independent daily newspaper AL-SIYASAH has reported that the government is experiencing a sharp political crisis which could lead to violent reactions if it is not contained. The paper said the crisis escalated yesterday during a meeting held by the economic sector committee chaired by Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi when Trade Minister Dr Muhammad Yusuf Abu-Hurayrah withdrew from the meeting and did not return to his Ministry. This occurred during a discussion on credit ceilings. Finance Minister Bashir 'Umar said there is no room to amend the credit ceilings after the Bank of Sudan has issued a leaflet in this regard. [passage indistinct]

But Dr Abu-Hurayrah withdrew once again following a direct encounter with Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi on the importation policy and ways to secure the smuggled goods which had already been seized. The paper also reported that Dr Abu-Hurayrah met with the leader of his party Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani and criticized the lack of clarity in the party's programs. The paper added that the minister embarrassed the [Democratic Unionist Party (DUP)] members by failing to go to his Ministry and also by not attending a ceremony in honor of the Egyptian trade minister currently visiting Khartoum.

It is noteworthy that Trade Minister Dr Abu-Hurayrah evoked differences with Egypt over the Sudanese-Egyptian delegation currently visiting Sudan led by the Egyptian trade minister. Dr Abu-Hurayrah adheres to adopting the exchange rate between Sudan and Egypt in Egyptian pounds. Observers believe that matter constitutes an obstacle to the ongoing negotiations in Khartoum which are expected to end today with the signing of the protocol minutes.

It was announced in Khartoum yesterday that Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi will visit Cairo in the middle of February. The DUP members, to whom the trade minister is affiliated, commented on the current dispute. They said they do not intend to intervene and that it is up to the prime minister to assess the situation with the higher leadership of the DUP and the Ummah Party.

/12858
CSO: 4500/66

SPLA ZONAL COMMANDER IN SOUTHERN KORDOFAN INTERVIEWED

Khartoum HERITAGE in English 9 Feb 87 p 4

[Text] Alternate member of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLA) Political-Military High Command, in an interview with the Editor of Heritage News Paper in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa said last month that he and his colleagues have resorted to a military option because the authorities in the central government had totally failed to find solution to the problems of backwardness and lack of development in the western Sudan in general and the Nuba mountains in particular.

Major Yousif Kuwa who is the SPLA zonal commander in Southern Kordofan explained that the Nuba, Beja and the Darfur fronts had made several appeals to the Khartoum governments during the last two decades so as to bring development to poverty-stricken areas with aim of improving the social and material conditions of the people there. But unfortunately, Major Kuwa pointed out, what we have been receiving from the responsible authorities were negative responses.

Elaborating his point, Major Kuwa said, "the people of the backward areas of the northern Sudan, despite economic difficulties and social hardship, had continued to advocate the unity of their country. They had hoped for a unity in which the backward areas could be given equal opportunities for development.

Major Kuwa went on to say that the formation of the general Union for the Nuba Mountains, the Darfur and the Beja Fronts in 1964 was an attempt to find political solution to the matters affecting those areas.

Unfortunately whenever we talked about issues concerning the giving of equal developmental opportunities to the backward areas like the Nuba Mountains, the authorities in Khartoum began to call us racists, separatists, rebels, anti-Arabs and the like.

Major Kuwa disclosed that after visiting Eastern and Southern Sudan and by comparing the problems and causes of underdevelopment in these areas, he discovered that they were very identical to those in the Nuba Mountains.

"After the May revolution we thought carefully as to why these areas were neglected while other parts in the north were being developed," Kuwa recalled.

We persistently raised our voices again and again but were being told that the national issues and problems of underdevelopment would be resolved through socialist system which gives chance to each nationality to look after its local affairs.

Having failed to convince the Khartoum authorities and convinced that the May Regime did not come to power to solve the problems of backward areas, we in the Nuba Mountains decided that the only way to put pressure on the Khartoum government so as to solve our problems was to resort to an armed struggle.

"This is why the people of the Nuba Mountains where I come from are joining the SPLA en-masse," Major Yousif Kuwa said.

"We decided to join the SPLA because we believe that it is a national movement whose objective it is to liberate the whole Sudan from unjust system of Khartoum," Major Kuwa explained.

"When one is sick, he will try all kinds of treatments. Indeed he must try to find cure for his illness. So we joined the SPLA to find cure to our problems," Major Kuwa elaborated his point.

Speaking about the arming of some of the Arab tribesmen in Southern Kordofan, Major Yousif Kuwa said that the Government has resorted to this practice because it has lost confidence in the national army capability to fight the SPLA.

"The idea that the national government sides with some of its citizens against the others is a very serious affair which is bound to have grave consequences," Major Kuwa warned.

"To arm innocent and primitive citizens to fight on behalf of an organized army defeats the logic that the army is meant to defend the citizens and the country as a whole," Major Kuwa said.

In his view, the problems facing the Sudan is that of underdevelopment, which he thinks needs a peaceful solution.

Major Kuwa also dismissed the government allegation that SPLA/SPLM is an Ethiopian puppet. He argued that Ethiopia never gave them money so as to leave the country and join the movement. Ethiopia is not either the cause of racism in the Sudan, he added.

Was it Ethiopia which imposed the controversial Islamic Law of 1983 which had maimed and humiliated some of our dear citizens?" Major Kuwa asked.

In his opinion the problems of the Sudan could be resolved within the basis of the Koka Dam declarations.

He appealed to the government not to escape from the declaration, but to address the issues as they are and as agreed upon during the conference.

Major Kuwa cautioned Sudanese to look into the question of national identity (Arabs African) with wisdom. He noted that the Arabism of the Sudan was unjustifiably given much prominence at the expense of the African Sudan.

He therefore warned that it would equally be wrong to say Sudan is an African country as it is also inhabited by mixed races like the mulattoes.

In this regard, Major Kuwa pointed out the issue is not of being either Arab or an African, but of justice and equal rights for all the Sudanese irrespective of their race, culture, religion, creed or sect.

In conclusion, Major Yousif Kuwa once again ruled out the possibility of secession. "Let us be Sudanese and we shall solve all our problems. Look at the U.S.A., it is inhabited by people of European and African descents which he said are living in harmony. All of them are proud of being Americans in the first place.

/9317

CSO: 4500/67

WESTERN SAHARA

ALGERIAN JOURNALIST REPORTS ON GUERRILLAS

Moroccan 'Wall' Under Attack

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 20 Oct 86 p 3

[Text] The risk was too great, for straight ahead there was an entire surveillance system with electronic radar. The machine guns fire at the slightest movement. As for the Saharan guerrillas, they ended up by familiarizing themselves with these new war conditions. Reporter Djamel Benmerad from the Algerian newspaper HORIZON 2000 gave himself this challenge: to cross the Moroccan "wall" with the Saharan guerrillas. He himself confesses that it was with great trepidation that he launched into this adventure, but he came back with the idea that the "wall" has now been demystified. The weapons of the Polisario fire at random along the length of the wall. Mohamed Ouali, a member of the Politburo of the Polisario Front and the region's military-political official, says: "It's like this every day and every night. We are keeping the Moroccan army on a permanent state of alert and in continuous instability. It will be like this until Hassan II finally decides to negotiate sincerely with us."

Lead-colored night. The sky is cloudy. In the distance one hears the rumble of thunder and the darkness is split by flashes of fire. Bursts of machine gunfire, mortar explosions. The horizon is in flames. This is happening some 10 km in the distance. Every now and then, "bengalis" (luminous skyrockets) shoot into the sky and vague silhouettes can be seen. These "bengalis" are a kind of luminous skyrocket equipped with a parachute which allows them to stay in the air for a long time in order to illuminate the ground better and make it possible to locate clearly occasional movements within a wide range. Morocco's Royal Armed Forces make use of them regularly whenever they are attacked or raided at night along the 2000 km of wall erected by Hassan II.

It is almost midnight (Greenwich time) and the fighting goes on, with 10 to 15 minute breathing spells. There are six of us in a circle, some seated cross-legged and others leaning against the jeep around a campfire. It is tea time. Mahfoudh, called Captain, 20 years old; Fadhel, the group leader; Selma, the driver of the jeep, and El-Hafedh, the cook, all of them in fact fighters, have the Kalashnikov within arm's length. There is also Jean-Luc Drouin, a French journalist who is carrying four cameras, and myself.

We have traveled almost eight hours to get to this region of Mahbes, where we are to witness (from as close as possible) the military operations. The wind is hot and violent and the sky is cloudy.

Tomorrow is Jean-Luc's birthday. For lack of candles, Captain has promised him some pretty fireworks. A jeep arrives in the dark with its lights off. It stops 20 meters from us. Several shadowy figures get out and set up their camp. Fadhel explains to me that that will be our escort during our stay in the Mahbes sector. Another jeep arrives and more men get out. One of them comes straight to us with a rifle over his shoulder and sits down greeting everyone. He is Mohamed Ouali, a member of the Politburo of the Polisario Front and commander of this sector. The sky is still cloudy and illuminated. "Since the battle of Ouakziz, Hassan II has become aware of our invincibility. On the advice of his allies, he adopted the strategy of the walls. It is a static defensive line that consists of barbed wire, mine fields, and berms, protected by the royal infantry and artillery, as well as sophisticated electronic detection installations." Ouali stops just long enough to serve tea and continues: "The king is not in control of the situation in the western Sahara... The soldiers that he has put behind the walls do not sleep well, even when our fighters are willing to let them sleep a few hours. Sometimes they start shooting all their artillery at a little lizard or some other animal, which shows how worried they are that they might be attacked by the Polisario. At any rate, I prefer for you to see for yourself..."

The gusts of wind diminish in violence but the noise of the battle persists and will go on like this all night. We are awakened by the sound of motors. The jeeps are getting ready to leave. The jeep belonging to the sector official is no longer there. In the two remaining jeeps, the blankets and other sleeping gear are already stacked up. We drink a cup of tea with some biscuits and we divide ourselves between the two vehicles. It is foggy. The clouds are within reach of the rifles. It is 5:20 am GMT when we get in the jeeps headed for the wall. We go some 10 minutes before getting to a hill. For a moment, we are in the open in front of the Moroccan positions. The jeeps accelerate. The American radar, capable of detecting anything that moves at a distance of 60 km has already detected us... But that is another question. We go along for what seems like an infinitely long time until we get to a chain of hills. On the side of one of them a jeep with a radio antenna is parked. Beside it, some fighters are drinking tea. A little farther away, a mortar is in position.

"Make the Enemy Speak"

Fadhel, the leader of a section of the Saharan People's Liberation Army, Jean-Luc and I climb up to the top of the hill. From there we can clearly see the wall, the barbed wire, the Moroccan positions and, a few hundred meters from the wall, a dummy: It has the silhouette of an old man, bent over a walking stick, wearing a white robe and a red turban: King Hassan II. A rather mischievous Saharan fighter made it, and, under cover of night, put it there to irritate the Moroccan soldiers.

The wall. To the left is an observation post they call "sonnette", occupied by a section of the Royal Armed Forces (a section is composed of about 45

soldiers.) To the right, about 1.5 km away, the supply point behind which four sections of the Royal Armed Forces are protected. And it is like that all along the 2000 km of the wall, but with variations (according to importance) in the spacing between the "sonnette" and the supply point. In these intervals are located units of the famous DIR (Rapid Intervention Detachment), an "elite corps" created to confront the new Saharan tactics. From the top of the hill, the chief of the Polisario unit signals the guerrilla fighter located next to the mortars.

It is exactly 6:37 GMT when the first mortar falls on the Moroccan soldiers. At 6:37, the royal family and the Moroccan generals are sleeping peacefully in their luxurious homes in Rabat. The owners of the factories that make weapons for the Alauita regime are likewise asleep at that hour. Fadhel turns to me and says: "You are going to see what just one of our mortars can provoke." He has not yet finished his sentence when we hear an explosion: the mortar falls about 100 meters from the place where we are standing. "They're searching," says Fadhel. "If it fell so far away it's because they haven't located us yet." It is an 82 mm caliber mortar and...a third mortar falls equally far away. Jean-Luc doesn't miss that one: It's a strange thing: after the explosion of the mortar and the immediate silence that followed it, the noise of the camera seems deafening to me.

"Aren't you afraid?" asks the chief of the unit. Jean-Luc shrugs his shoulders. I am no longer conscious of my fear. I think...and I'm no longer thinking: it is the beginning of the apocalypse. There's a fourth mortar and then a fifth and then... Then I stop counting them. The explosions, the smoke, the fire, the steel, and us in the middle. I whisper "Happy birthday!" to Jean-Luc. Fadhel pucks up a bit of still-hot mortar and offers it to Jean-Luc, who in spite of the rain of fire, finds time to be moved. Fadhel exclaims: "Now do you understand?" Yes, I understand one of the aspects of the ALPS's tactics: make the enemy "speak", incite him to use his weapons, to waste his mortars and ammunition... How many dollars were spent during this quarter hour? The chief of the unit thinks that that's enough for this morning. He gives the order to crank up the engines.

We get in the jeeps, followed by the mortar shells. It is beginning to get hot in this area, the "Hamada" (desert) continues, extensive, dotted here and there with rare bushes with thorns called "talhas." The rest is sand, pebbles, snakes, scorpions and dry "oueds." All the land is flat, almost uniform. When we get to camp, we find lunch ready. The discussion begins. Tea and then a nap. We are awakened by Ouali's arrival: tonight we are going to try to infiltrate the famous wall?

'Permanent Resistance'

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 20 Oct 86 p 3

[Text] Sand as fine as powder. Rocks the color of lead which they call "essafia" here. They shine even without sun, which today is beating down on the back of our necks.

Following the escort jeep, Selma drives to one side in the Saharan manner to avoid the dust stirred up by the jeep in front. We leave the desert behind and progressively go down into more hospitable terrain. We continue parallel to the wall, at a distance of 15 to 20 km, for the entire trip, with short stops for tea and one longer one to enjoy a delicious "menshoul" (roasted lamb.)

Our entire trip is accompanied by the reverberation of bombings, explosions, and bursts of machine gunfire. There is constant shooting everywhere. Electronic detection instruments have evidently already located us, but the Royal Armed Forces have other emergencies to attend to. And then, what do two dots too many or too few matter on the screens of Morocco's radar? The vehicle of the Saharan army are constantly traversing the western Sahara and the ALPS mobile units are located facing the Moroccan positions, continuously monitoring occasional movements of the troops of the Royal Armed Forces and analyzing daily changes in the adversary's situation.

Little by little the desert becomes covered with bushes, boulders and mountains. We enter the Farsya zone to spend the night. When we wake up, our escort jeep has disappeared. It is another jeep with another group of fighters who will accompany us from now on. While preparing tea, Fadhel and Mahfoud recall the different aspects of the "conflict" (as some Westerners say when referring to the genocide under way against the Saharan people.) They talk about the internal situation in Morocco, about the contradictions that are beginning to appear within the legal "opposition" parties, between the bottom and the top, in regard to the Saharan drama... They talk about what will be their territory after independence: "Our country is extremely wealthy... We will turn this desert into an immense green lawn..." Then they announce the surprise to us: the existence of a well 50 meters from where we are camped. Jean-Luc Brouin and I rush to get there. Helped by Mahfoud, we take a shower and wash our filthy clothes. After drinking tea, we start out on our journey again.

In this distance, an airplane can be heard. Fadhel reassures us: "It is a Moroccan reconnaissance plane. It flies at high altitude for fear of being shot down... Do you know what the cost of an F-5 or a Mirage is?"

We cover dozens of kilometers before we get to the Lemkeyeb area, just before El-Khanga. The jeeps drop down into a dry river bed and stop in front of a well which is almost overflowing with clean water. I guess that we are going to camp here, judging by the fact that the fighters are unloading the supplies. This is the Benzakka River. A sweet, green grass grows here, as well as small bushes and the inevitable "talha." Behind a row of trees, some 200 meters away, I can make out some covered forms. Fadhel explains to me that that is one of the groups that is operating in the sector. We must not be very far from the wall because I hear more clearly the sound of combat. A cool breeze is sweeping over the river.

We eat lunch, listening to Mahfoud thank the American, French and South African arms merchants for what they provide to the Polisario... And he explains: "We get 70 percent of our weapons off Moroccan troops. And we don't even use them all because, for example, what will we do with the tanks that we have

captured?" I recall mentally the legend of the battle of Ouarkziz, the battle in which the jeep chased the combat tanks.

A Walking Tree

Then everything accelerates: the goings and comings of guerrillas, the noise of motors. A tree is coming in our direction. No, it's a camouflaged jeep. It is equipped with a twin-barreled machine gun. Shortly, we are surrounded by a multitude of guerrillas. Handshakes. Abba Sidi, the section chief, introduces everyone.

The automatic machine gun swings around and points north. Our jeep is still at the rear. We leave the river and, after going up over a hill, we can make out the wall. As our jeep advances, we can make it out more and more clearly, until we can just see a position of the Royal Armed Forces. We lie still among some bushes. On the automatic machine gun, the driver, the gunner and the orderly. They turn toward us a smile. The first flames burst from the two barrels of the machine gun. The outburst is brief, just a few instants. There is a second outburst. The Royal Armed Forces respond. First at random, then with more precise aim. An explosion. The artillery is coming to help. But explosions and the acrid smell of combat mix with the sweet smell of the "talha." My heart is beating in time with the explosions, I don't know whether from fear or excitement. Perhaps both at the same time. The Saharans' machine gun doesn't stop any more. Fire fed by a wild desire for freedom. The mortars rain down. The gunner raises his hand to his forehead. His comrade has likewise been hit in the hand. We must leave. Jean-Luc is the first to run to our jeep. A mortar fragment hits the tree. Jean-Luc throws himself face down on the ground. A few more minutes of detonations and then the Royal Armed Forces stop firing. Everyone gets into the jeep, the wounded first. One of them turns to Jean-Luc, smiling: "So, don't you want to take my picture?" he says, wiping his eyes which are blinded by blood. Half way to camp, our jeep lets out two more bursts of fire, the last two. It is 5:15 pm. Arriving at the deepest part of the river bed, we meet a jeep with a 14.5 machine gun mounted on top. It is going to relieve the other one. A surprise awaits us at the edge of the woods. Lamine Bouali, a member of the executive committee of the Polisario Front and a member of the revolutionary command, greets us.

Tea. A quick meeting where Lamine Bouali confirms what the Saharan adolescents have told me: "We shall fight to the end!" There is discussion on the tactical aspects of guerrilla warfare: "We have created the conditions which guarantee us a permanent resistance with a minimum of means..." Who decides on the guerrillas' actions? "A general program for the revolution exists, but the sectors themselves choose and also decide on operations, as a function of their own conditions."

Abba Sidi, accompanied by Mahdjoub, comes to look for us so that we can witness a bombardment. A few more kilometers in the jeep and we find two fighters near a rocky hill with an 82 mm mortar. We climb to the top of the hill. The first mortar falls below the Moroccan position. Mahdjoub signals to the gunner. The second, the third, the fourth mortar, 15 mortars all fall squarely upon the Royal Armed Forces' position, plunging it into a huge cloud of black smoke...

Fighting Described

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 20 Oct 86 p 3

[Text] The tea is served. We drink it down in one gulp, in the Saharan manner. A fighter comes out of the shadows and approaches us, signaling to Mohamed Cuali and he gets up. One by one, the other fighters imitate him. For Jean-Luc and me, it is also time. We split up into the three jeeps which set out toward the west. The wind is hot and undoes the tops of the turbans with which the fighters protect themselves. These turbans are very useful for the men of the desert: They serve as protection against the sun, the heat, the wind, the sand; they serve as a pillow and can be used to bandage a wound...

We travel five minutes over the sand, then we change direction: northwest, headed toward the wall, some 10 km away, the noise of the motors muffled by the far-away noise of the artillery. Suddenly we stop.

Our car is surrounded by six or seven other jeeps. There are several shadowy figures. This is the first time since I have been traveling through these combat zones that I have seen so many fighters at once. This is more or less the full force of a section, although the number of men per "faoudj" (section), "katiba" (company) or "failek" (battalion) is never definite for the Saharans. In fact, the number is always determined by the requirements of the action to be undertaken. The ALPS is a modern army, but not a conventional one. It adapts its structures to its program of action.

There is a murmur of many voices. Shadows moving in the night. The dry snapping sound of the breeches of the machine guns. The shadows divide into groups and separate. Our group sets out. Five kilometers still separate us from the wall. Five kilometers to be covered on foot and in silence. A few fighters remain behind to guard the jeeps. We leave our watches and personal objects with them. We disperse ("so we won't offer too big a target to those up ahead," Mohamed Ouali tells us) and we walk at a uniform but rapid pace...until the first burst of gunfire. Lying face down on the rocky ground, we see the two red lines, intermittent and parallel, pass by a few dozen meters away.

Fadhel whispers to me: "They haven't detected us. They are shooting blindly, at random." We get up and set out on the road again. I make the mechanical city-slicker gesture of brushing off my clothes, a ridiculous thing to do under these circumstances. A few more minutes of walking. Then the whistling of a bullet. The shot came at an angle, from the right side. We hear the whistling of the bullets and we see the red traces at almost the same time as the noise of the fusillade. The shots came from the supply point of the Moroccan positions. I crawl on all fours over to Mohamed Ouali and I ask him in a whisper what kind of weapon that is. "It's a 23 machine gun..., but starting now, you must not say another word. We're not far from the wall."

In fact, the wall stands out clearly in relief and seems to move in the dark. But bursts of gunfire make us hit the ground. Now we are right in the middle of the crossfire. The machine gun mounted on the "sonnette" to our left is firing. We hear a series of explosions and then the bursts of gunfire from more machine guns.

Mahfoudh, known as Captain, smiles in the darkness as he crawls toward me: "The Polisarios are attacking!" he says to me in a whisper. "Our fighters are hitting both positions hard..." They are the groups that left us shortly before. We get up and walk several dozen meters farther until those who were behind us catch up with us and move on ahead.

Halt. We've reached the mine field. Some of the fighters lie down on the ground and start fanning out. First the barbed wire. Then the mines. With no instruments other than their hands, the sappers gather, one by one, the helish devices laid out in such a pattern that it is impossible to pass through their network. Two anti-tank mines, then, between them, two or three anti-personnel mines. And so on. However, the order is not always so regular.

In about half an hour, which seems interminable, the 10 or so meters of the mine field's length have been cleared in a one-meter-wide strip, wide enough to go through. We advance in silence and in single file, with the sappers in front, each one carrying two mines. The sweat running down my forehead is cold and my heart is beating like a hammer. The 10 meters seem much longer than that to me. Finally, the wall. A part of the barrier falls when pushed by some of the fighters. We cross over the wall through the gap. The wall is about 1.5 meters high. Right behind it, a position called "clash" by the Royal Armed Forces. It is abandoned. It is built of stone and concrete for the placement of artillery. Beside us, the bursts of gunfire and the explosions continue. The wind continues. The sappers continue farther away. They are going to place the mines in the path of the Moroccan columns and in the areas of movement.

We go back with the same precautions. Halfway back, there is an immense, brilliant light in the sky straight over our heads. It's the skyrockets! We hit the ground but I feel like a butterfly caught in the light. That huge sun over our heads... The first burst of gunfire! The second! The light goes out but the machine guns do not stop. We jump up and run, crouching, toward the right. The bursts of gunfire continue, with the sharp, brief whistling of the bullets. Then calm. We ease up. "The danger has passed," Mohamed Ouali tells us. Then he addresses Jean-Luc and me: "Are you okay?"

We are thirsty. Our lips are burning, as if cut by a dozen knives at once. Our throats are dry and on fire. Fadhel tells us: "We must go to bed early tonight because we have a long way to go tomorrow. You are going to participate in another action with our fighters..."

9895/12951
CSO: 3442/44

MORE 'OPEN' U.S.-ISRAEL-IRAN ALLIANCES SEEN

JN171601 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 17 Feb 87 p 1

[Editorial: "The Ultimate Israeli Goal"]

[Text] It is not the beginning, but the inevitable end. Iran has become Israel's ultimate goal and U.S. national song following the scandalous deals involving the three parties. Before embarking on his trip to the United States, the Zionist entity's prime minister touched the Khomeyniite wall for a blessing. The trip has two objectives. The first came in Yitzhaq Rabin's statement in which he said that giving arms to Iran serves Israel's security and Washington's aims. The second is what Israel wants this year and considers part of its political objectives, which need no further discussion with the U.S. side.

It has become obvious that Yitzhaq Shamir is entering the White House through the wide Iranian gate, which has been given this false importance by the U.S. alliance with Tehran and Shamir, who is now going to Washington supported by this link between Tehran and Tel Aviv and the U.S. hostage file, or rather the Iranian ransom file on how President Reagan should deal with Iran's needs.

In the opinion of the Israelis, the question is not an Iranian deal or blackmail of the U.S. side, but Iranian demands for establishing closer U.S.-Iranian ties, which are no longer an embarrassment after they were disclosed East and West, and for formalizing these ties so that they will not cease when Iran's need for U.S. arms ceases.

Israel, which began as a broker in the early arrangements for renewing U.S.-Iranian relations, is now the strategic partner of Iran, which has opened its arms to the historical enemy of the Arabs so that they will be common enemies.

In short, we must expect more open alliances among the United States, Iran, and Israel and also more exchanges as long as Iran seeks a strong Israeli presence [as published] in southern Iraq and Israel does not mind the Iranian presence in southern Lebanon.

/6662

CSO: 4400/150

SAWT AL-SHA'B PRAISES HUSAYN'S SYRIA VISIT, TALKS

JN121233 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 12 Feb 87 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "A Landmark in the Good March"]

[Text] It [King Husayn's Visit to Syria] is indeed a landmark in the good march and marks the beginning of hope for a new pan-Arab dawn at a time requiring decisiveness and creating Arab destiny and future.

His Majesty King Husayn's visit to fraternal Syria and his meeting with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad have crystallized the Jordanian and Syrian leadership efforts toward building an Arab stand capable of affecting and influencing the course of events in the current Arab situation. This visit also a step forward in the efforts to build Arab solidarity and entrench joint action that will remain our nation's only support in confronting the immense challenges and dangers facing it.

The two great leaders, King Husayn and Al-Asad, are eager to entrench the course of continuous contacts and consultations, based on bilateral relations and constructive dialogue which take into consideration all aspects and developments of the Arab situation. They are also eager to bolster bilateral relations based on the requirements of pan-Arab interests away from improvisations so that a serious, responsible starting point will emerge for tackling the nation's causes, troubles, and current problems.

The Jordanian-Syrian meeting encompassed all aspects of and dangers to Arab causes, constituting a Jordanian-Syrian concern which stems from the pan-Arab message carried by the Jordanian and Syrian leadership. This pan-Arab message also embodies the spirit of fraternal, constructive dialogue which will result in agreement in views and stands on the one goal which is, as King Husayn asserts, support for the causes of our Arab nation which we take pride in serving and in belonging to.

The Jordanian-Syrian meeting and King Husayn's visit to Damascus have achieved positive and very successful results through agreement to work for helping Lebanon emerge from its ordeal, maintain its independence on the basis of national unity and common interest, and to work together to stop the armed struggle around the camps and remove the reasons behind it. This agreement

a serious, responsible start toward solving the hot Arab issues and also a framework for a broader Arab action to confront and solve these issues.

The Al-Husayn-al-Asad meeting was a starting point and a beginning of a new phase of joint Arab action within the framework of building a genuine solidarity. Such solidarity can be embodied by unifying efforts to confront challenges and by promoting bilateral cooperation which provides the internal Arab front with steadfastness, power, and Arab intrinsic capability.

The Al-Husayn-al-Asad meeting was an advanced step in a pan-Arab trend led by King Husayn to increase Arab meetings, build solidarity, and lay down bases for joint pan-Arab action, action which will always remain the basis of a pan-Arab victory and the goal of all Arab masses.

/6662

CSO: 4400/150

WEST BANK UPRISING UNAFFECTED BY SHAMIR U.S. TRIP

JN181114 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Feb 87 p 1

[Editorial: "The Courageous Uprising"]

[Text] The kinfolk in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are continuing their courageous uprising against the occupation authorities and their oppressive policies. In return, these authorities are continuing to savagely confront the uprising by imposing sieges, closing universities, and intensifying their racist grip on whatever is Palestinian. They are against any move rejecting occupation as a whole and any dealing with the occupation's exposed or hidden plans.

As the latest uprising enters its 9th day, it is fair to say that the uprising, with all its sincerity and warmth, began with the very first moment of the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This uprising subsides for a while only to erupt more violently than before. It subsides for a day, but only to prepare for further confrontation and resistance of the Judaization plan of extirpating the kinfolk and imposing occupation as a de fact situation. This plan is doomed to failure. This is confirmed by the people's struggle against their enemies and their ability to defend their land and identity and create victories daily.

The Palestinian generation, which is currently fighting, with faith, affiliation and stones, all efforts to impose the Zionist plan on Arabism and the Palestinian kinfolk in the streets, camps, cities and villages, was born under occupation and grew up with a profound feeling of responsibility to foil all the occupation's plans. This generation achieves victories by the moment. This is confirmed by the occupation forces' attempts to strike at and contain this victory and by the fact that the occupation of territories in 1948 and 1967 and all the Israeli military victories have not succeeded so far in guaranteeing security, peace and stability for this rejected entity and its military, economic, psychological and oppressive tools.

What is left is to refer to the fact that the steadfast kinfolk's current escalation of their courageous uprising coincides with Shamir's visit to the United States and the efforts he is exerting to be treated as a "distinguished ally". This will not change the situation since the Americans themselves have had many experiences with peoples who succeeded in resisting and defeating their enemies despite their might, strong fleets and unlimited power to kill, annihilate and destroy. What is not accepted by a people cannot be imposed on them even if all the forces of evil and aggression join forces.

EDITORIAL URGES MORE SUPPORT FOR WEST BANK CITIZENS

JN171619 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Feb 87 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "A Bright Situation in a Dark Reality"]

[Text] The wrath of the masses of the Palestinian Arab people in the West Bank and Gaza continues to erupt in the face of the usurper occupiers and to take the form of a large-scale violent confrontation despite the unequal strength and meager resources of our steadfast people.

Though the ugly Zionist military occupation authorities have found nothing to use against the wrath of these masses, which are agonizing over the current Arab situation other than escalating oppression, suppression, and confiscation of property, those experienced in resisting occupation continue to announce their great anger and extreme denunciation of these measures and to consecrate their noble grief with warm, pure blood. It is indeed regrettable that those who resist occupation with all available means of resistance have obtained nothing from the Arab world, which is immersed in internal rift and division, but neglect rather than the required large-scale support for such a bright phenomenon in an Arab reality dominated by bitterness and darkness.

Undoubtedly, the continuous popular uprising in the occupied territories could have prodded this nation to close ranks and unite efforts behind one of the noblest pan-Arab goals: liberating the occupied Arab territories. However, the Arab reality, which is plagued by the chronic disease of divisions, has prevented using this volatile situation against the occupiers.

While we are greatly proud of our people's courageous resistance of the occupiers and share with them their anger and sorrow over what is taking place in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, we urge this nation to brush aside its small differences, unify its numerous ranks so as to support the steadfast people, and strengthen their will to continue their steadfastness and confrontation of the occupying Zionists with all available means and forms of resistance.

/6662

CSO: 4400/150

AL-RA'Y REITERATES STAND ON DIRECT TALKS

JN090919 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Feb 87 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "The Genuine Peace"]

[Text] In a new link of the chain of Israel's propaganda and political campaign against Jordan, Peres claimed yesterday, in a statement to the Israeli Army radio, that any peace between Jordan and Israel would be a genuine peace and reiterated the call for direct negotiations between the two sides.

It goes without saying that Jordan has always affirmed and still affirms that a genuine peace is the one which brings about a comprehensive, just settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute and which guarantees Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, foremost being Arab Jerusalem, and guarantees the restoration of the Palestinian people's national rights through an international conference to be attended by all the parties to the conflict, including the PLO, as well as the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

In light of this clear, constant stand, Peres' talk about direct negotiations and separate peace between Jordan and Israel is absolute nonsense. Jordan has frequently announced and is still announcing that it will not be an alternative for the PLO or a custodian of the Palestinian people, and that Jordan will continue to adhere to the convocation of an international conference as an arena in which searching for a just, comprehensive peace can take place.

There is no doubt that Jordan, which is committed to its pan-Arab stand, will never go back on it, regardless of the escalation of the political and propaganda campaign launched against it by the Israeli politicians and officials. Jordan believes that this is the correct path to genuine peace. This stand was clearly understood during His Majesty King Husayn's visits to France, Italy, and the Vatican last month and during the successful talks he held with the leaders of these countries. The outcome of these visits confirms that Jordan enjoys appreciation and respect in the international arena, in addition to the unanimous support it receives in the Arab arena.

The tendentious Israeli political and propaganda campaign is further proof of the Israeli officials' continued policy of preventing the activation of the

peace process in the region through the no's they announce: No to an international conference, no to withdrawal from the occupied territories, no to the PLO participation in the peace process, and no to the Palestinian people's rights. These no's accurately represent the reality of the unchanged Israeli intentions represented by swallowing up the Arab land and rights and pretending to be willing to achieve peace, which, according to the Israeli concept, means nothing more than forcing the Arabs to surrender.

Jordan has frequently announced that Israel cannot obtain both land and peace. In light of this clear principle, we reaffirm that Israel will never succeed in forcing the Arabs to surrender.

/6662

CSO: 4400/150

DAILY ALLUDES TO U.S. BACKING FOR IRAN

JN081231 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Feb 87 pp 2, 19

[Unattributed news analysis: "What the United States Wants From the War"]

[Text] The cities war continued yesterday between Iraq and Iran and a Soviet official has again called for the need to stop this war through negotiations. All Soviet statements these days emphasize that the U.S. stand on this war is based on exploiting this war and that U.S. support for Iran is for the purpose of striking at and dismembering Iraq. More than that, the clear statements made by an Iraqi Army officer concerning the objectives of the last Iranian offensive, which is trying to reach Kuwait, explains the vast dangers of this war and the poison and conspiracies it entails. Consequently, it appears that this war is the United States planned war in the region, as the Soviet officials' statement said and as was confirmed by China yesterday and today.

The NEW YORK TIMES confirmed this true U.S. stand when it said yesterday that U.S. support for Iraq against the Iranian aggression must be linked to a change in the Iraqi regime. As we know, this is also Iran's first and last condition for ending the war. The obvious aim of removing a strong regime goes beyond individuals to removing Iraq itself. We are certain that had there been a weak regime in Iraq, Iran would have been able to achieve its objective of occupying Iraq and dividing it into several small states. However, Iraq and the Arab nation are fortunate that the Iranian aggression has taken place at a time when Iraq is internally strong and cohesive--hence, this great steadfastness throughout the past 7 years of the war. And not it is important to note the following:

1. After the suspect U.S. arms deal with Israel's assistance, it has become clear that the Iranian regime, wittingly or unwittingly, is carrying out the U.S. plan to destroy and dismember the region prior to establishing its control on it. Fortunately, the arms scandal has been exposed to prove to the world that the Iranian regime's claims are baseless. Even if we assume the existence of Iranian goodwill, this war forces the Tehran rulers to resort to the "arch satan" for help. These rulers are blinded by hatred. There is also the logic of the war which says that enemies are always in one camp.... Even if we assume the existence of goodwill we say that this war has made it incumbent on Iran to be within the U.S. plan.

2. The recent battles in the south of Basra sector showed that the United States gave Iran valuable information which to a large extent, is similar to the information it gave to Israel during the 1973 war to find a gap between two armies. All sources of information confirm that the Iranian penetration between the III and VII Army Corps took place with American arrangement.

3. The U.S. call for a change of the Iraqi regime reveals the dimensions of the U.S. conspiracy, whether by giving large quantities of sophisticated weapons as proven by the evidence published so far, or by supplying information via satellite. It is certain that the United States, which is waging a battle alongside Israel against the Arabs, is also waging this battle by other means, including Iran.

4. The serious escalation of this war with U.S. support obviously aims at strengthening Israel's position, abandoning all efforts for the sake of the Palestine question, and undermining the Arab nation's resources for the sake of implementing the U.S.-Zionist plan.

/6662

CSO: 4400/150

RESTRICTIONS ISSUED ON EMPLOYING FOREIGNERS

Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5-6 Feb 87 p 3

[Text]

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Labour and Social Development on Wednesday announced further instructions governing the employment of non-Jordanians in the country.

A ministry statement said that from now onwards no work permits will be issued to non-Jordanians seeking clerical, managerial, accountancy, typing, telex, secretarial, telephone operating, store keeping or interior decorating work or jobs as guards or messengers. The ministry statement said that Jordanian workers are now available to fill posts for all these types of jobs and that local manpower should be given a chance to handle such work.

According to the statement, a number of occupations can still be filled by non-Jordanians pro-

vided prior approval is obtained from the minister of labour. These jobs include those of a supervisory nature, technical jobs in all sectors except for trades and professions which cannot be taken up by Jordanians, and teaching. The statement made it clear that approval for work permits could be obtained if backed by a recommendation from the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

The statement, signed by Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan, appealed to all organisations and companies to cooperate with the Ministry of Labour in implementing these regulations and instructions. The minister also urged all Jordanians seeking jobs to apply through the Ministry of Labour's employment offices in the Kingdom.

/13046
CSO: 4400/149

NEW ROAD PROJECTS FOR 1987 ANNOUNCED

Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5-6 Feb 87 p 3

[Text]

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Public Works is in the process of issuing tenders for a number of main roads to be implemented in the Kingdom during 1987 at an overall cost of JD 60 million, Public Works Minister Mahmoud Al Hawamdeh announced on Wednesday.

Mr. Hawamdeh said that the projects will offer jobs to local engineers and workers and will stimulate economic activity in Jordan.

Giving details of the projects, the minister said that they include the Aqaba road, a 31-kilometre stretch of highway which will link Wadi Al Yitem with the southern coast of Aqaba, enabling lorries and other heavy traffic to avoid going through the main approaches to the Red Sea port.

Another project is the Na'our detour road, a four-lane six kilometre stretch of road extending from Marj Al Hamam to the Dar Al Dawa'a factory and including four junctions and overpasses. According to the minister, two tenders will be announced later in the year to link the Marj Al Hamam road with the Sweimeh Dead Sea road in the Central Jordan Valley region.

He said the projects include the Irbid-Thaghrat Asfour road near Jerash which has already been awarded to a consortium of local

firms. Work on this 26-kilometre four lane highway will cost JD 6.5 million and is expected to start in the coming month, Mr. Hawamdeh added.

Cement highway

Mr. Hawamdeh said that another road included in this year's plan is the Jafr-Al Azraq highway, and that a consortium of Indian contracting firms has been awarded the tender at a cost of JD 36 million. Work on the 180-kilometre road, he continued, is expected to begin in the coming two months. He explained that Jordan will be paying the Indian contracting firms partly through a barter transaction involving the export of Jordanian phosphates, potash and cement to India and partly in cash from the Jordanian treasury.

According to the minister, the 180-kilometre road project will use locally-produced cement from the former South Cement Company. He said approximately 250,000 tonnes of salt resistant cement will be used in constructing the road.

/13046

CSO: 4400/149

BRIEFS

CABINET RECALLS AMBASSADORS--Amman (PETRA)--The Cabinet has decided to transfer six ambassadors to the Foreign Ministry headquarters in Amman as of April 30. These are ambassadors Kamal al-Humud from Peking, Nasir al-Batayinah from Bucharest, Walid al-Sa'd from Belgrade, 'Amir Shammut from Abu Dhabi, Nabih al-Nimr from London and Salih al-Kabariti from Baghdad. Ambassador Hani Tabbarah will be transferred from Ankara to the Foreign Ministry in Amman as of June 15, 1987. The Cabinet also decided to retire Ambassador Muhammad Muhammad al-Farra as of Feb 28 and Ambassador Muhammad 'Ali Khurma as of March 15. The Cabinet appointed Dr. Trad Sa'ud al-Qadi, a former health minister, and Hilmi al-Lawzi, a former assistant chief of staff, as ambassadors at the Foreign Ministry. [Text] [Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Feb 87 p 3 JN] /6662

W. BANK TV CORRESPONDENT--Amman--In a statement to AL-QABAS, a Jordanian responsible source has described as unfounded reports that Ziyad Darwish has been accredited as Jordan Television correspondent in Jerusalem. Reports have mentioned that Ziyad Darwish will be the representative of Jordan Television in the West Bank. The Jordanian source added that Darwish is an employee of the British television station Visnews which distributes its programs to and cooperates with many television stations in the world and which is doing some work for the Hebrew program of Jordan Television which daily transmits for 1 [as published] hour the state of affairs in the occupied territories and Israel. The new development is that Visnews had recorded a television interview for Jordan Television with an Israeli Knesset member who is calling for just and peaceful solutions and who recognizes the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and their right to establish an independent state. This viewpoint was transmitted on the Hebrew program, a program beamed to the Israeli people. The Jordanian source added that Jordan Television will transmit other interviews in harmony with the Arab viewpoint and on the Hebrew program only. [Text] [Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 10 Feb 87 p 22 JN] /6662

ISLAMIC BANK LOAN--Amman, (PETRA)--Husayn al-Qasim, governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, returned to Amman the day before yesterday after attending the meetings of the Executive Directors Council of the Islamic Development Bank which concluded in Jeddah on Thursday. Al-Qasim said the Council agreed to grant Jordan a \$14 million loan to be used in financing the second phase of the thermal station project in Aqaba. [Excerpts] [Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 Feb 87 pp 1, 19 JN] /6662

JOINT JORDANIAN-SAUDI COMPANY--Riyadh (PETRA)--The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have signed an agreement to set up a joint agricultural-industrial company with \$500 million in capital, split equally. The company will invest in agriculture and industry on a commercial bases, will be run by a 6-man Board of Directors, and will operate for 50 years. It will sell its products in the two countries and abroad, may enter into partnership with comparable companies, and will be based in Amman. The agreement was signed for Jordan by Dr Raja'i al-Mu'ashshir, minister of industry, trade and supply, and for Saudi Arabia by Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy. [Text] [Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 13 Feb 87 p 1 JN] /6662

CSO: 4400/150

INTERVIEW WITH SULAYMAN FRANJIYAH

Beirut AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 13 Feb 87 pp 19, 22

[Interview with former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah, by Sharbal Raghib: "How Does Discussion Take Place With One Party's Gun in the Back of the Other?"; at Franjiyah's home in Zgharta, date not given]

[Text] When (former) President Sulayman Franjiyah proposes an initiative designed to resolve the domestic crisis, the Lebanese regard it as an auspicious event, given the fact that the former president does not speak at random, but takes responsibility for every word he says or every initiative he launches. When he proposed the national salvation initiative in September 1985, the Lebanese thought preparation was being made for some movement, and, in particular, through President Franjiyah. This was repeated when the former president agreed to attend the Smar Jubayl presidential meeting and when this meeting relied on the national salvation initiative as a working paper. Today, eyes still turn toward President Franjiyah to learn the features of the coming period.

AL-HAWADITH visited President Franjiyah at his villa in Zgharta and conducted the following discussion with him:

[Question] Some call you the "barometer" of Lebanese politics. What, then, are your predictions for the immediately approaching period in Lebanon?

[Answer] Lebanon today is living through the worst state it has experienced in 12 years. If we study what the solution is for restoring normal conditions in Lebanon, we shall find only one solution: dissolution of the militias, and a serious resolution by the legitimate government to insure the security of Lebanese citizens, so that they can resume their normal lives. I can assure you that the Lebanon every "Lebanese" Lebanese desires will return within 6 months of Lebanon's living under the shadow of a government and not under the shadow of militias. As long as the militias control parts of Lebanon, as they do today, the situation will continue, unfortunately, without end. For confirmation of this, look at how the people of al-Biqa' and of North Lebanon are living. We still live as did our fathers and grandfathers, and the reason goes back to there being no agents of Israel in these two provinces.

[Question] How can the militias be dissolved and a powerful state be established?

[Answer] The present state must begin by forming from those who care about the land and people in this country a government that represents all of Lebanon and all its groups.

[Question] As soon as you agreed to attend the Smar Jubayl meeting, the Lebanese inferred that positive things would happen, especially regarding the Lebanese-Syrian summit. However, you announced that it was still too soon to hold it. Mr President, what were the real motives for the Smar Jubayl meeting, and what are the positive things that can be expected?

[Answer] We met in Smar Jubayl to study carefully together what the state must do in order for the country to return to its normal state. Of course, those who were present at Smar Jubayl did not represent all of Lebanon. However, they represented the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese factions. We conferred and talked. It was agreed to take some measures in the area controlled by those who attended the meeting.

[Question] In your opinion, was the failure of the meeting due to lack of agreement on constitutional powers, or to other matters?

[Answer] I wish you would direct the question to President al-Asad or President al-Jumayyil, because I personally do not know what facts they have.

[Question] But what are the facts that make you believe it is still too early to hold the summit?

[Answer] I conclude from what is happening on Lebanese soil that Syria, our brother, does not accept the situation. As long as there is no authority in Lebanon to put an end to what is happening on its soil, I have great doubts about the meeting that has become a dream for some people and a commodity for others.

[Question] But, Mr President, the summit appears to be the point of entry for solving many problems and disputes, especially the convening of the cabinet. Can the country continue in this way, "neither bound nor set free"?

[Answer] I see no connection between the summit and what happens in the cabinet. From the constitutional point of view, a cabinet meeting is legitimate if there are six out of a total of ten ministers who gather together and make whatever decisions they wish. What is lacking in order for these decisions to become entirely constitutional is the signature of the head of state. I do not know for what reasons the head of state is refraining from signing what is legitimate and constitutional.

[Question] The National Salvation Document, which contains much about the constitution, the 14 Points, and the parliamentary recommendation--on all of these things no two people disagree. Nevertheless, the war has not ended. What has to be ended first before the ending of the Lebanese war?

[Answer] In my view, there can be no political reform before insuring security, because security is the foundation for every negotiation and discussion. I ask myself how discussion can take place when a gun is aimed at someone's back. When the gun is put into storage, the Lebanese problem will end, whether or not Israel wants it to.

[Question] The elimination of political sectarianism is a fundamental demand of some Lebanese leaders; not eliminating it is a fundamental demand of other leaders. In your opinion, how will there be a compromise?

[Answer] Compromise lies in making a middle ground. The middle ground is to begin by eliminating political confessionalism step by step. I assure you that if this principle were adopted, it would be logically impossible for there to be anyone to object to it. If, however, we talk of eliminating confessionalism in a few days, that would be unreasonable, as far as I believe, and would constitute a danger to the relations between Lebanese and Lebanese.

[Question] You always make it point not to interfere with the powers of the president. At the same time, the other side insists on strengthening the powers of the prime minister and that his role should not be limited to that of the president's "chief clerk." How can the powers of the latter be strengthened without infringing upon the powers of the former?

[Answer] Those who make a point of the powers of one of the two, do not know about the practical cooperation between the two and the ministers. The constitution gave the president 12 powers; however, according to custom today the president has only one effective power: issuing a decree choosing the prime minister charged with forming a government. Custom says that this decree shall be issued only after consulting the parliamentary blocs and independent deputies. People today are asking that we elect the prime minister through the Chamber of Deputies. There is no obstacle at all to having the prime minister's mandate come from the Chamber of Deputies, instead of having the deputies consulted. The cabinet is formed only with the agreement of the two leaders [viz., the prime minister and president]. The president's powers in the cabinet are limited to presiding over sessions. Things have come to such a pass with those who do not know what actually happens in the cabinet that they are demanding that the president not vote--as if he voted upon the decisions the Lebanese cabinet makes. This is not true. Given this ignorance, I hope a parliamentary committee will be charged with studying all the powers in effect today and with giving each party his due.

[Question] "The country's unity comes from the army's unity"--thus people are saying in light of the army's current situation. How do you picture the unity of Lebanon?

[Answer] If we start from this principle, which is correct, there is no unity of the country unless there is the army, which is supposed to be unified. We do not think, however, that this army has become armies.

[Question] Your role in keeping army officers out of politics is well known. In popular circles today, the idea of searching for a Fu'ad Shihab to save the

country through military organizations is strongly proposed. Are you for that kind of rescue, and, if so, who is your Fu'ad Shihab?

[Answer] If there were anyone resembling the late Emir Fu'ad Shihab, I would give you his name immediately. Unfortunately, we had a Fu'ad Shihab and we lost him. There is no longer anyone who resembles the great man whom the Lebanese people summoned and whom the Chamber of Deputies elected president.

[Question] You always oppose opening Halat Airport, at a time when moving from East [Beirut] to West [Beirut] is in itself a problem. Do you have a suggestion for opening another airport that will satisfy everyone?

[Answer] For those who demand opening Halat Airport to be in step with reality, they would first and foremost have to insure freedom of movement between North Lebanon and Beirut; then let them demand what they please. We have enough illegitimate harbors and facilities exploiting Lebanese citizens to insure the implementation of Israel's plan on Lebanese soil. The most important part of this plan is making it easy to induce citizens to emigrate abroad.

[Question] Because of the security chaos in the area of West [Beirut], many demands have surfaced for a return of the Syrian deterrent forces to West Beirut. In your opinion, does this mean a return to before 1982, or, to be exact, to the eve of 1982?

[Answer] What I desire is a return to 1976, i.e., the day the Syrian army came into Lebanon and was charged with insuring security. A week later, Lebanon was living as if the 2 years of war had not taken place. All thinking apart from this reality is either to gain time or to fool people.

[Question] Some say that there is no solution to the Lebanese crisis before a solution to the Middle East crisis. Mr President, do you support this idea?

[Answer] The Lebanese crisis was born when the infamous Kissinger decided to give Lebanon as a country to the Palestinians. As long as the Palestinian problem exists, and as long as there are Palestinian refugees in various parts of the world, I do not believe solving the Lebanese problem will be easy. If people, and, in particular "Mr" Reagan, want to give rest to the world, he should take a humane position toward a people that was forced to emigrate for the benefit of another people, which scattered it around the world and wants it today to gather on another nation's soil and at its expense. One hopes that God Almighty will as soon as possible insure us another Saladdin, so that we can have rest from this historically accursed people and go back and live on our holy land, and so that we can make the pilgrimage to Bethlehem's Cave [of the Nativity] and to Jerusalem.

12937

CSO: 4404/242

BRIEFS

FADLALLAH ON ICO, U.S.--Scholar Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has stated that the ICO summit recognized Israel. He said: They recognized Israel because they called for an international conference at which Israel, the Arabs, and certain great powers will meet to resolve the Palestinian problem. He said the United States is preparing the atmosphere for war. Fadlallah asked: What is the meaning of the United States circulating reports that it will intervene in some way, or the Israeli announcement that the cabinet met in its capacity as a security committee to study the issue of the hostages in Beirut? They are preparing for something. They are preparing for the economic, military, and political destruction of a people, simply because individuals have been kidnapped. [Text] [Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 30 Jan 87 NC] /9738

CSO: 4400/143

DAMASCUS URGES 'MORE EFFORTS' TO END FIGHTING IN LEBANON

JN111633 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Feb 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Every now and then there is talk that efforts to resolve the Lebanese problem are near success and are about to finalize details of a settlement acceptable to all parties. Talk is renewed whenever events are prompted by political activity in Lebanon or the region. Exaggerated optimism when talking about efforts to bring about a solution leads to receding hopes when such efforts face difficulties and obstacles which must be surmounted at every stage. Pessimists use the natural development of efforts to achieve a solution to spread pessimism and to paint a bleak picture of the future tinted with the color of blood.

Just as external U.S. and Israeli interference obstructs improvement in the Lebanese situation through the use of agents and hirelings and through incitement, U.S. and Israeli military moves help to spread pessimism and create an atmosphere of tension which aims to encourage those whose private interests are not compatible with a national solution or those who believe such a solution may not provide the best framework for their interests, ambitions, and guarantees which they believe they need at present and in the future.

Although the Lebanese experience with solutions which come from abroad or with the rejection of national [wataniyah] solutions at the instigation of outside forces has demonstrated that no one can rely on the United States and its like or on Israel, there are those who are still prepared to lend a sympathetic ear to instigation from abroad or from Israel--this in turn has a negative effect on the general situation in Lebanon and revives hopes among some of those who are unrealistic regarding developments, which, according to a sound and realistic political analysis, have no chance of succeeding.

After more than a decade of internal strife, the situation in Lebanon has reached a state in which Lebanon's higher interests require the war must end and the abnormal situation turn into a normal situation restoring to Lebanon its healthy role and giving to all Lebanese guarantees of justice, equality, and coexistence.

Needless to say, the principal elements for a national solution in Lebanon are Lebanon's territorial integrity and the unity of its people, the consolidation of Lebanon's Arab affiliation, national coexistence among the Lebanese, justice and equality for all, the distribution of rights and duties on the basis of citizenship and equality, and the establishment of relations with Syria compatible with history, geography, common interests, mutual needs and benefits and the struggle to liberate Lebanese soil from Israeli occupation.

On the surface, there are no differences over these elements. If such agreement on principles is reflected in real stands and in detailed issues, it would be possible to achieve a just, acceptable, and implementable national solution. The difficulties which arise every now and then are not unnatural in view of the protracted years of internal strife and the emergence of new interests and factors, some of which are positive while some are negative. More efforts must be made to overcome such difficulties, prevent Lebanese stands from being influenced by whispers from overseas, bring the Lebanese and positive points of agreement among them closer, and contain and dismantle the negative points dividing them.

Those who are striving for a just and equitable national solution in Lebanon which fulfills the needs and eliminates the [word indistinct] which used to exist in Lebanon's internal life and paved the way for internal strife can rely on the Lebanese masses, which aspire to a national solution, peace, and a normal life, on Syria, and on all those who want to stave off U.S. and Israeli exploitation of the region.

/6662

CSO: 4400/150

AL-BA'TH VIEWS REAGAN-SHAMIR WASHINGTON TALKS

JN200816 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 20 Feb 87

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The United States Closes the Doors to Peace," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says in its editorial: The United States has closed all doors to peace, has considered any Israeli decision a U.S. decision, and has ignored the views of all those Washington claims to listen to in the Arab region, thereby declaring hostility to Arabs and their causes. Yesterday, the U.S. President responded to all of Yitzhaq Shamir's demands, including permitting the Zionist army to use stored U.S. weapons in the Negev, Al-Karmil, and Sinai. Also yesterday Washington gave Israel preference even over its NATO allies. The U.S. Administration still gives much to the Zionists at a time when it is painstakingly working to extricate all it can from Arab hands.

AL-BA'TH adds: While Yitzhaq Shamir has achieved in his visit to Washington all which will make the strategic alliance document more effective, the visit Shim'on Peres will pay to Washington falls within the context of the policy of U.S. concealment of what was agreed upon between Reagan and Shamir. Hence, the anticipated meeting between Peres and officials of the Egyptian regime is the most dangerous link in the series of misleading and deceptive moves made by the skillful U.S. deceivers against Arab and world public opinion. The United States closed the doors to peace when it acted on behalf of Israel and rejected all UN resolutions and when it challenged world public opinion by rejecting an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH wonders about the nature of the peace Washington is seeking when it knows there will be no peace as long as rights are denied and that there will be no peace unless the Zionist aggression against Arabs is removed and unless Arab land is purified of the occupation's filth, evils, and tools.

/6662

CSO: 4400/150

DAMASCUS RADIO VIEWS SHAMIR U.S. VISIT, U.S.-ISRAEL ALLIANCE

JN161506 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Feb 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: President Reagan's administration has rewarded the aggressor Israel, which has violated international law and defied the United Nations and the international community, by proclaiming that it enjoys the official status of a non-NATO ally. In view of the state of relations between the United States and Israel there was no need for such a proclamation to highlight this unique example of ties between two states and of full coordination of objectives incorporating the plans of the smaller partner into the strategic plans of the other. The whole world knows that had it not been for the United States and its aid to and support for Israel, Israel would not have been able to launch expansionist wars of aggression, occupy the territory of others, pursue a policy of imposing faits accomplis by force, and defy the international community.

However, it appears the ceremonious U.S. proclamation calling Israel a favored ally was to honor the old terrorist Yitzhaq Shamir, prime minister of Israel, who went to Washington to hold talks with senior U.S. officials. The experience of world public opinion with visits by Israeli officials to Washington are bitter ones of disappointment regarding peace and security. None of these visits has yielded results serving peace and security, human rights, or the UN Charter and its principles. Indeed, such visits were often followed by Israeli acts of aggression committed with Washington's consent. That happened following the visit to Washington by the notorious Israeli Minister Ariel Sharon when the treacherous Israeli forces invaded Lebanon.

Yitzhaq Shamir's current visit to Washington coincides with the United States' deploying its 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean and thus spreading tension, escalating the situation, and exacerbating the danger of the outbreak of armed clashes which could be sparked by any foolish action, any prearranged incident, or any preplanned contingency. The rulers of Israel are always prepared to commit any crime to serve the great ally and to implement its instructions or to implement the Israeli plan of establishing biblical Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates.

When the readiness of Israel's rulers to provoke and commit aggression and crimes converges with the foolishness and shortsightedness of some senior U.S. officials, one's attention is sharply drawn, as the matter requires alertness and caution and the harnessing of all necessary resources to foil any plot while it is being hatched and to dissuade the adventurers from taking a course whose consequences for them and for the situation in the area, and perhaps in the world, are unknown.

When we say Shamir's current visit to Washington is not intended to serve the cause of peace we are not being pessimistic, but are merely drawing conclusions from what we know of U.S. plans and stands and Israel's ambitions and methods. Shamir is now declaring openly--before beginning his talks with President Reagan and others--that he opposes an international conference on Middle East peace and that he might accept an international conference if it leads to direct negotiations and if its resolutions are not binding. That means Shamir wants the international conference to be a conference where Israel imposes its conditions and demands on Arabs and uses the presence of other states at the conference to put pressure on the Arabs and compel them to capitulate to Israel.

Israel does not view an international conference as a way to achieve just peace based on the UN Charter and UN resolutions, but wants the international conference to be an instrument for imposing capitulation on Arabs. It is a longstanding and known Israeli stand. It is a stand which has obstructed peace efforts in the past and seeks to obstruct peace efforts now and in the future. The gravity of such a stand lies in the fact that the rulers of the United States have placed U.S. policy in the region at Israel's disposal and in its hands. Here lies the great threat to peace in the Middle East.

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CSO: 4400/150

U.S.-ISRAELI ALLIANCE 'DIRECTED AGAINST ARABS'

JN151547 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Feb 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Honorable listeners: Events are proving what President Hafiz al-Asad confirmed at the Kuwait Islamic summit, namely that the United States is the biggest terrorist state in the world. The massing of an armada of aircraft carriers and 6th Fleet ships and the threats to launch a military strike against one country or another on the pretext of combating terrorism, releasing hostages, or on the pretext of training [sentence as heard]. We maintain that pursuing a policy of brute force to impose political fait accomplis in various parts of the world is not only futile but faces the international community with threats whose consequences are unknown.

Imposing the law of the jungle in international affairs is, in the present circumstances, being widely rejected by countries and peoples which fully realize the dangers of the policy of aggression pursued by the United States. The United States has given itself the right to deal with the Middle East as if the Middle East were an appendix of the United States or as if the United States were a trustee over the Middle East, totally disregarding the will of its peoples. The United States has even gone further and repeatedly defied the Arab nation by attempting to compel it to succumb to the Zionist enemy's plans, which essentially coincide with U.S. interest of containing the area and attaching it to its sphere of influence.

Although Arabs have always resisted the military plans of the United States and its allies, the most serious of such plans were the Camp David accords because they removed Egypt from the arena of confronting the Zionist enemy. However, Washington has not learned from the lessons of the past, but continues to plan on the basis that force is the quickest way to impose hegemony on Arabs.

The bullying presence of U.S. vessels in the Mediterranean and the U.S. declaration that the Zionist enemy is an ally which enjoys the status of a NATO member--without any obligations in return--are signals of the escalation of the policy of aggression in the region. That is because such an

alliance is directed against Arabs. Indeed, it constitutes a step forward in encouraging the Zionist enemy to continue its expansionist policies under the protection and with the participation of a U.S. armada.

The United States tried aggression against Vietnam and was defeated. It tried aggression against Lebanon and withdrew in defeat. The United States is now trying to repeat the attempt, moved by hatred and the desire for revenge and terrorism in an area which will not be a Grenada or a picnic site for Marines.

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CSO: 4400/150

DAMASCUS RADIO URGES ARABS TO COUNTER U.S. 'EXPANSION'

JN121504 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Feb 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] While it tries to evade the many crises it faces and while it tries to entrench its strategic alliance with Israel, the U.S. Administration does its best to consolidate its presence in the Arab region. It seeks to frighten others with this presence and to boost its morale and that of its [word indistinct], as well as the morale of those who are revolving in its orbit in the Arab region. It seems Washington wants to reassure itself, through its warships and fleets, that its big stick still wields influence in the Middle East, and to reaffirm to its European and other friends that this stick as yet has not become weak despite the fact that most of its friends in Europe and elsewhere have become somewhat convinced that the language of force and threats is no longer of any use in the Middle East against the steadfast and militant Arab forces.

The current U.S. Administration continues to believe in Zionist concepts, fairy tales, and instigation, a belief blinding it to the real and effective facts in the region, facts which our struggle and sacrifices impose. This blind U.S. belief has reached such a level that it causes the indignation of many in the world, as well as their anxiety that Washington may perpetrate a new foolhardy adventure in the region whose consequences cannot be even predicted by those who plan to carry out such an adventure.

Its attempts to evade the many U.S. crises and its insistence on pursuing unlimited U.S. support for the Zionist entity and on strengthening its military arsenal may make the U.S. Administration carry out such a foolhardy adventure at any moment.

The U.S. Administration's current provocations will neither make the United States enjoy a better position in the region, enhance its prestige in our eyes, nor give more influence on peace and security in the Middle East. On the contrary, we view the current U.S. actions in the region and against us and the threats it levels and the conspiracies and capitulatory settlements it peddles as being new reasons for reducing its influence, weight, and impact and another reason for its becoming more and more a tool in the hands of the Zionist movement.

We would like to emphasize here that Washington's attempt to overlook our pan-Arab facts and to replace them with writs of capitulation, forms of hegemony and Zionization, and campaigns seeking to divest us of the weapons which protect our Arab dignity and freedom, not to mention all the U.S. warships in the Mediterranean, all the U.S. bases, and all the capitulatory agreements which are concluded, are nothing more than an ideological, geographic, and aggressive extension of the Zionist entity in occupied Palestine.

We have decided to confront this extension and to prevent it from achieving its designs of expansion. We extend our hands to all through effective Arab solidarity to achieve this urgent pan-arab duty.

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CSO: 4400/150

AL-THAWRAH CITED ON 'ARAFAT CLIQUE 'CONSPIRACY' IN LEBANON

JN130840 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 Feb 87

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Under the headline "'Arafat's Sedition Is an Israeli Scheme," the newspapers AL-THAWRAH says in its editorial: Since the deviationist clique in the Palestinian arena exploded the fighting against the nationalist Lebanese, it was clear that this dirty conspiracy is part of an Israeli scheme aimed at perpetuating the war in Lebanon, fragmenting Lebanon, preventing national accord among the Lebanese, and aborting the Lebanese national movement against the Israeli enemy. The deviationist 'Arafat clique imagined that at the expense of the agonies of the Lebanese, the Palestinians, and the Arab nation it could engage in a deluded settlement with Israel and secure a cover for the liquidatory plot composed of campaigns of slanders, deception, and the forging of facts. However, the course of events has confirmed that the deviationist 'Arafat clique is involved in the Israeli scheme and that this clique is held responsible for the destruction, blood, and pains from which our Lebanese and Palestinian brothers are suffering.

Syria has cautioned against this vile conspiracy and of its dangers since the very beginning. Moreover, the efforts Syria has exerted and continues to exert in order to foil the sedition and put a final end to it have been a genuine expression of the pan-Arab will of the masses and also a practical translation of every nationalist trend aimed at unifying the rifles and directing them against the Israeli occupation as well as intensifying efforts to thwart the capitulationist trend, foil the movement of its agents and tools, and close the doors on their plots.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Syria's call for ending the so-called camps war, closing the doors to the Israeli scheme, and foiling the Israeli agents' sedition comes as a genuine expression of the will of the nationalist Lebanese and Palestinians, as a response to the supreme pan-Arab interest, and as a continuation of Syria's pan-Arab role represented by working to save Lebanon, achieve national accord among the Lebanese, and confront the capitulationist Zionist-imperialist onslaught which aims to liquidate the Palestine question. In this conspiracy, the deviationist 'Arafat clique is playing the role of an executive tool and a poisoned weapon in the hand of the enemies of the Arab nation and of the Palestine question; namely, the imperialists, Zionists, and capitulationists.

SYRIA

ISLAMIC GROUPING LEADER SA'ID HAWA INTERVIEWED

Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 30 Jan 87 pp 20-21

[Interview with Sa'id Hawa, secretary general of the Syrian Islamic Grouping by Sana' al-Sa'id: "The Daring Views of Islamic Thinker Sa'id Hawa: 'Violence Is the Foremost Enemy of the Islamic Tendency';" date and place of interview not specified]

[Text] The Islamic thinker Sa'id Hawa, secretary general of the Syrian Islamic Grouping said in an interview, "The Iraq-Iran war marks the beginning of a long-term struggle between two worlds: the Sunnis' world on the one hand and the Shi'ites' world on the other. If Iran is not checked, its aspirations will soar, and its wars in the future will go beyond the Gulf countries to Turkey itself. Iran wants to dominate the Islamic world."

I told the Islamic scholar Sa'id Hawa, "There is no doubt that the Iraq-Iran war has been the greatest calamity that has afflicted the Islamic world. This war has made Iran more dangerous to the Arab and Islamic world than Israel itself. What do you think about that?"

[Answer] There is no doubt that Iran's involvement in the present situation has been advantageous to countries that are hostile to both the Arab and Islamic worlds. Among the manifestations of that involvement is the sense that is felt all over the world that this battle is not in the interests of the Islamic nation but rather in the interests of the superpowers and many other countries in the region. This feeling which has become quite clear was even evident in the American weapons deal to Iran. That deal even made it evident that the United States and Israel had concluded that this war served their interests and that their position in it should be beside Iran because it is Iran that can simultaneously achieve many strategies for Israel and for the western or eastern world. There is no doubt that by embarking on this war with Iraq, Iran has created a contradiction that many countries have exploited. Among the most important aspects of that contradiction is this: Iran will do whatever Israel cannot do and cannot become involved in directly out of concern for world public opinion and statements adopted by mankind in our age.

[Question] But if the war is not merely a confrontation between Iraq and Iran, what then are its strategic implications?

[Answer] We don't think that the Iraq-Iran war is limited to two countries. It is a conflict between two strategies. The superpowers are trying to take advantage of the climate that has been created by the war. Thus, the war is one in a very long series of wars. Khomeyni's Iran is moved by its desire to dominate the Islamic world. This is evident from all the propaganda about the war and all the money that is being spent on this propaganda everywhere in the world, advocating the ideas espoused by Khomeyni in his doctrines and positions. The war is an expression of Iran's desire to dominate the Islamic world. This is what Iran has been planning for: Iran's alliances, propaganda and war are parts of that plan. It is on that basis that we think that Iran is set to embark on many wars in the future. A war between Iran and Pakistan is possible, and another war is also possible between Iran and Turkey. In fact, we think that what Iran would like to see in its long term plan is a state that will ultimately be dominated by Khomeyni's ideology and will extend from the Sind Province to Iran and from Iran to Iraq, Syria and Lebanon. This large country could become a factor in the fall of Africa itself to Khomeyni's ideas and domination. The unexpected alliance between Libya and Iran at this stage may be explained by the fact that Iran feels that Libya could play a role in the future in favor of this domination which Iran wants to impose on the Islamic world. The key to understanding the question of Iran lies in this subject: the desire to dominate the Islamic world. In fact, it is the possible outcome of achieving this wish in upsetting the Islamic world that is inducing Israel and the entire world--east and west--to assume a position in support of Iran. The world is allying itself with Iran or siding with it in less than an alliance for that purpose. Many people have started to feel that this situation which Iran wants to bring about in the Islamic world must be taken into account. That is why many international agencies wish to deal with the new situation that lies in the future of the Islamic nation and that Iran wants to impose on it.

[Question] Won't these international agencies fear Islam then?

[Answer] We think that in the final analysis it is not Khomeyni's Islam but rather the true, authoritative Islam that is feared by the whole world. Thus, it is true Islam that is likely to be and is capable of introducing change into the culture of the modern world. But an Islam which has been compromised, flawed, distorted and altered is not authoritative. We all know that Khomeynism has been condemned by the world. It has not set for the world the example that the world had aspired to. The mental attitude in Europe, America and the East toward the Khomeyni phenomenon is that it does not represent an advanced phenomenon for regimes or mankind. That is why this Khomeynism is not to be feared. What is actually feared is an unadulterated Islam that could be offered to the whole world.

[Question] It has recently been rumored among Muslim scholars that an attempt is underway to repudiate and excommunicate Khomeyni. What do you think about that?

[Answer] I have no doubt that Khomeyni got himself in trouble in his books when he made statements that exclude him from the Muslim community. One such statement has to do with an Islamic tenet which was unequivocally mentioned in the Koran. "It was We that revealed the Koran, and shall Ourselves preserve it" [al-Hijr: 9]. Khomeyni gets himself in trouble when he says that the Koran was

not transmitted accurately. Thus, he says that the Koran has been distorted, changed and abridged. There is no doubt that when anyone in the world tells us that our Koran has been altered and distorted, we cannot consider him a Muslim at all because the great foundation upon which this religion stands is that the Koran has been preserved by Almighty God. Muslims believe that the Koran is the miracle of Islam and that it is above any doubt. That is why I am one of those who is inclined to believe that Khomeyni has deviated from the community of Islam in many of the ideas he expressed. Among those ideas is his notion that imams supersede prophets and apostles. That is not a valid issue. Khomeyni also got in trouble on the subject of distorting the Holy Koran. He got in trouble on many other subjects which separately or together constitute a departure from the pure faith.

[Question] What do you see are the prospects for the Islamic Movement's actions in the world today? Can the leaders of the Islamic Movement grasp the spirit of the age? What do you think about the possibility of coexistence between Islamic, national and patriotic tendencies?

[Answer] The Islamic Movement's first mission is to save mankind for Almighty God. That is why we believe that when the movement can reach man and persuade him to believe in the theory and practice of Islam, it is playing a major role. It seems that the Islamic Movement has succeeded in this mission to a large extent. The movement's second mission is to attempt to establish Islam in practical terms in life. This is what some people refer to as the process of Islamizing society, the state and the people. Although the Islamic Movement has had some measure of success in this area, it has not been able to make much progress in it, especially on Islamic territory. This is because the situation of the world in our age is complicated, and the situation that the Islamic movement is facing in the Islamic world is one that is extremely complicated because it is the product of a great deal of work that was done over a long period of time. Thus, when the Islamic Movement seeks to achieve something in this Islamic world, it finds itself up against conditions that have become established. That is why it has not been able to establish what it wants to establish in this respect.

[Question] Should this be taken to mean that the organizational makeup of the contemporary Islamic Movement in the Islamic world is still weak?

[Answer] Undoubtedly. And although this factor has played a part in the Islamic Movement's failure so far to establish a complete Islamic system on Islamic territory, that failure can also be attributed to this complicated movement which the Islamic Movement is facing.

[Question] What about the possibility of coexistence between Islamic tendencies and national and patriotic tendencies?

[Answer] Regarding the extent to which these tendencies can coexist on Islamic territory, let me say that the defacto leader of the modern Islamic Movement, the late Mr Hasan al-Banna, was able to propose formulas which made it possible for the Islamic tendency to coexist with other political tendencies on Islamic territory. This is because we make a distinction between patriotic and national tendencies that wish to set forth political ideas as alternatives to religion or

see themselves counterpoised against religion or altogether supplanting it, and those political tendencies which see themselves as formulating independent opinions on how an Islamic country or the Islamic world as a whole should deal with civilization's new given assumptions. As long as the Islamic Movement is facing political tendencies that do not see themselves as alternatives to religion, coexistence with them is possible. But if these patriotic or national tendencies consider themselves alternatives to religion or if they see themselves counterpoised against religion or supplanting it, then the Islamic Movement would take a firm position in the face of those tendencies. Accordingly, we are affirming here the notions which were set forth by Hasan al-Banna. He said that coexistence with national or patriotic perceptions was possible and did not conflict with Islamic perceptions or with the Islamic religion as a whole. We affirm this with regard to the Islamic Movement, and we demand it of ourselves. We stress that patriotic and national movements are to consider their independent efforts remedies for a contemporary situation and not alternatives to Islam. They should not see their efforts as eliminating, destroying or contradicting Islam.

[Question] Forgive me, but what has happened is the opposite. It is the Islamic tendencies that started this. They appeared to confront political tendencies or to offer themselves as alternatives to them, and they spoke in harsh and abrasive terms. Violence became predominant in their positions so they could dictate them to others. What I am saying is supported by the ideas of the dissidents, and those ideas became widespread. Terrorism, violence, thoughtlessness and extremism have become widespread throughout the entire Islamic world, threatening it with danger the extent of which only God knows.

[Answer] We don't believe that violence in the Islamic tendency was one of the factors responsible for the vehemence in other tendencies. In fact, I say that the modern Islamic tendency was lagging behind many of the vehement political tendencies. If we accept, for example, the notion that the modern Islamic tendency started with Hasan al-Banna or his message, which came about around 1938, we would find that the federal Turks had come to power in approximately 1913. It is known that the first political tendency which set forth vehement national ideas was the one that emerged with the federal Turks. In practice then the Islamic world did confront tendencies that contradicted Islam before the modern Islamic tendency came into being. Thus, we do not believe that the violence of the Islamic movement created the vehemence in other tendencies. In fact, we may say the opposite. We may say that the violence in the Islamic tendency was effected by the presence of other vehement tendencies. We may say that many Muslims thought about violence as a result of the existence of these vehement tendencies. In fact, if other tendencies had not dealt vehemently with Islamic thought and if they had not presented themselves as alternatives to Islam, it would have been possible to control Islamic confrontational actions so that they would not have been characterized by violence or terrorism. We know that Professor al-Banna was trying everything to control the violence in his group or in the tendency he had introduced. This is because the principal point that al-Banna and the Islamic tendency--then and after that first stage--were trying to control was that of reconciling numerous given assumptions. The modern Islamic tendency is trying to effect this reconciliation to ensure its own survival.

[Question] No matter what, a reasonable and judicious person has to realize that violence cannot help the Islamic tendency survive.

[Answer] Of course. Violence will not help it survive. Accordingly, when the Islamic tendency tries to reconcile its survival with its mission to promote Islam among people, it has to move away from violence. But the Islamic tendency also wants to reconcile the survival of the Islamic world and its ideas with the extinction of that world or the extinction of some of its countries. There is no doubt that this is difficult, and there is no doubt that when it is carrying out its work, the Islamic tendency stays away from violence in the first place because it is impossible to reconcile its existence and the existence of its message with the survival of an Islamic world that adopts violence.

[Question] The emphasis on violence that I'm talking about and the extremism of Islamic groups emerged in the seventies. From your perspective, was that a reaction to factors and circumstances that were reflected by some domestic conditions which prevailed in societies, or was it instigated by foreign conspiracies? Did Khomeyni play any part in fanning the fires of this violence and this extremism?

[Answer] Khomeyni influenced the Islamic tendency at a later stage, that is, with the victory of the Iranian Revolution in 1979. Before that, however, Khomeyni had no role to speak of as far as the Islamic tendency was concerned. In fact, he was not known to the Islamic Movement. All the things that happened before the victory of the Iranian Revolution were certainly not influenced by Iranian ideas or by Khomeyni in general.

[Question] How then can the existence of these radical tendencies in Islamic territory be explained?

[Answer] I think their existence can be explained principally as a reaction to the Islamic tendency's aspirations and to what it was suffering from simultaneously. Let me cite the condition of the Islamic Movement in Syria as an example of that. We were not thinking of violence as a means of political conflict. In fact, all our hopes were actually hopes that we stay free and able to worship God freely. In return, we were willing to put up with a great deal, but when we felt that the regime in Syria wanted the total eradication of Islam, and when that feeling [about Syria's intentions] posed a total threat to all neighboring Arab and Islamic countries, we decided to take a stand against that regime which was pursuing a policy of eradicating Islam everywhere: from the army, from education, from employment and from institutions. The regime was even trying to eradicate Islam from the values it was trying to employ. Had it not been for that, a clash between the Islamic Movement and the regime could have been avoided. But the regime's continued efforts to liquidate Islam led us to make the decision to confront it. Followers of the movement found no other way out than to use the slogan, "Kill me and Malik!" In such a situation followers of the movement stop thinking, and they prefer killing others and being killed to putting up with the eradication of religion and their own elimination which they saw was taking place.

[Question] Syria is the exception as a regime that bitterly and vehemently fought those who are affiliated with the Islamic tendency. Other regimes, however, did not use that weapon. Nevertheless, the emphasis on dissidence emerged

in dealing with national tendencies. In fact, this is suggested by the emphasis on vehemence and violence which the Hizballah militia in Beirut manifested in assassination, kidnapping and murder incidents which occurred there.

[Answer] Since we broke up the case into its parts, we have to look at each one from its perspective. Let me begin with Lebanon. The violence of Hizballah and of the Amal Movement stems from the fact that they were both influenced by Khomeyni's ideas, on the one hand, or by the ideas of his allies, on the other. The Amal Movement is supported by Syria, and the Hizballah Movement is supported by Khomeyni's ideas. Therefore, we cannot consider them part of the modern Islamic tendency because they were basically influenced by Khomeyni's ideas who, we think, does not represent an authentic phenomenon in the contemporary Islamic tendency. Accordingly, they are alien to the Islamic tendency.

[Question] This does not deny, however, that Khomeyni's ideas have had considerable influence on radical Islamic movements.

[Answer] We think that the influence Khomeyni has had on the contemporary Islamic tendency is temporary and can be brought to an end. In fact, we think this stage will not last too long because when the modern Islamic tendency finds out that Khomeyni's ideas and beliefs deviate from Islam and that Khomeyni himself adopts noncanonical Islamic ideas, the modern Islamic tendency will inevitably disavow him.

[Question] What about those who are carrying today the banner of contemporary Islamic tendencies? How can we immunize them so they would not resort to violence, impetuosity, rashness and arbitrariness in their conduct? How can we keep them from proclaiming ideas about sovereignty and pre-Islamic days in an erroneous manner? What would you say to those people, especially since the charge that is always being made is that clergymen shun confrontations with radical Islamic groups because they fear their tyranny?

[Answer] We advise ourselves, our fellow Muslims and all those with whom we have relations to seek perfection in themselves. To us, many things are involved in that quest. The most important of these is to become well-grounded in knowledge. We call upon members of the contemporary Islamic movement to become well-grounded in knowledge. If they talk about Islam they should talk about it accurately, adding nothing and deleting nothing. "Those who are well-grounded in knowledge say: 'We believe in it: it is all from our Lord. But only the wise take heed'" [al-'Imran: 7].

The second thing we recommend is patience. We feel that members of the Islamic Movement have been blessed with very little patience. That is why they very often become emotional, rebellious and angry. Consequently, they often speak thoughtlessly and frivolously. That is why we advise every individual to be patient so that everyone would feel that if he were to meet any member of the contemporary Islamic Movement, he would find himself facing a paragon of patience and knowledge: a person who does not become emotional, who remains composed and well controlled, who adheres to his argument, and who has the ability to argue against others with endless patience and impeccable conduct.

The third thing we recommend is wisdom. This has to do with putting things in

The third thing we recommend is wisdom. This has to do with putting things in perspective and looking at everything the way it should be looked at.

The combination of these three factors is necessary for the makeup of the contemporary Muslim. If he lacks accurate knowledge and if he has no patience or wisdom, he will then become a witness against God's religion instead of a witness for it.

8592

CSO: 4404/246

CAMP DAVID CRITICISM NOT AN ATTACK ON EGYPT

JN071544 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Feb 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Camp David pens in Cairo seized the opportunity of the convocation of the Islamic summit in Kuwait, the discussions that took place, and its resolutions to launch an organized campaign against Syria, pretending they are defending President Husni Mubarak. In fact, their real aim is to defend the agreements which harmed Egypt, linked it to Israel and U.S. imperialism, and removed Egypt from its natural place among the Arab ranks. Their real aim is to also destroy the bridges that have been established to facilitate Egypt's return from the Israeli to the Arab side. It seems the main target of this campaign is Egyptian public opinion which has in various ways rejected the Camp David accords and consequences, foremost of which is normalization of relations with Israel.

The Camp David pens are doing the impossible to show criticism of the Camp David course as an attack on the Egyptian people. We say the impossible because there is nothing that can make the great Egyptian people and valiant Egyptian Army be linked to the Camp David course or appear as an embodiment of that course. The Egyptian people and Army, which made great sacrifices in past decades in defending Egypt and its Arab nation against the Zionist threat, cannot become a symbol of association with Israel and submission to U.S. imperialism. Those who strongly and harshly criticize the Camp David course made and continue persistently and knowingly to make the distinction between a course that is harmful to Egypt and the Arabs, and the Egyptian people, who are renowned for their glorious history and appreciated national and pan-Arab stands. The Camp David pens and forums in Cairo cannot mobilize the Egyptian people and Army behind Camp David, nor can they make the Egyptian people regard the criticism of the course they themselves reject as criticism of great Egypt.

When the Camp David pens attempt to embark on their dishonorable mission of discussing President Hafiz al-Asad's speech at the Islamic summit in Kuwait, they view a speech unknown to our brothers in Egypt. If the Camp David trumpets had an honest intention, they would have shown our people in Egypt the speech they criticize and the parts of the speech that are the targets of their attacks and instigation. We are confident that if our people in

Egypt are given the opportunity to read the president's speech they would find in it every affection, respect, appreciation, and confidence, and great hope that they would be able to assume their normal place in the Arab ranks and exercise their vanguard role in the pan-Arab arena. Those who read the president's speeches on various occasions will find in them affection, appreciation, and confidence in the Egyptian people and Army and calls for freeing Egypt from the Camp David shackles, which have placed Egypt alongside Israel and removed it from its natural place in the Arab ranks. The orphans of the Al-Sadat regime will not succeed in fabricating an Egyptian battle with Syria or making the Arab battle against the Camp David course become a battle against President Husni Mubarak. The question is one of policy and not the Egyptian president who found himself faced with a course Al-Asad imposed on Egypt, and with a popular Egyptian and comprehensive Arab call for a return to a commitment to Arab summit resolutions, foremost of which is the resolution adopted by the Arab League Council on the basis of a proposal by the Egyptian Government banning contacts, negotiations, and separate peace with the Israeli enemy.

Doors and bridges will remain before President Mubarak to move Egypt from the Israeli side to the Arab side. Egypt's place with its Arab nation will remain reserved for a free, proud Egypt liberated from the Camp David shackles. No one will be as happy as Syria when fraternal Egypt resorts to its commitment to Arab summit resolutions and the resolutions adopted by the Arab League Council since its establishment. The only problem between Syria and Egypt is the Camp David course which experience has shown not to be in the national interest of Egypt or in the interest of the Arabs or their pan-Arab cause. Experience has also shown that this course is not in the interest of just peace which would restore land and usurped rights to their owners. When the problem, which is of a great principled importance, is eliminated, Syria's doors and heart will be open to Egypt and its representatives, and the doors, hearts, and capabilities of the Arabs will also be open to their big sister. President Mubarak, he can if he wishes, is called upon to play his role in embodying the will of the Egyptian people to assume their role on the Arab side and not on the Israeli side.

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CSO: 4400/150

ABROGATION OF CAMP DAVID NOT IMPOSSIBLE

JN091656 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] The official Egyptian media continue to speak about Egypt's relations with the Arabs and about events at the Islamic summit in Kuwait and what took place on its sidelines. Egyptian officials participate in speaking about Egypt's relations with Syria and the Arabs. They complain about Syria's stand on the requirements for Egypt's return to its normal place in the Arab ranks. The only argument the Egyptian officials can put forth to counter the Syrian stand is to say that it is impossible for them under the present circumstances to abrogate the Camp David accords and its consequences because its abrogation, in their opinion, would constitute a catastrophe and require a decision by the people. Those circles which say that the Egyptian rulers have good intentions vehemently criticize the Camp David accords and the negative impact they have had on Egypt and on its political, economic, and financial state of affairs, and on its Arab relations and its international status. Although these circles agree on holding discussions with the Egyptian rulers on how to assist these rulers' endeavors to reach a formula that will make them come closer to the Arabs and distance themselves from the chains with which the United States and Israel have shackled Egypt, these circles do not say that these accords are good or acceptable or constitute a solution to Egypt's problems and relations. They say that the regime in Egypt has bypassed these accords and is seeking to divest them of all content by neglecting them, obstructing the normalization of relations, and coming closer to the Arabs. According to them and to the Egyptian rulers, the abrogation of these accords is very difficult, very perilous and hazardous, if not impossible.

If one overlooks the instigations of the Camp David orphans and their tendentious campaigns against some of the positive trends within the Egyptian regime and against any rapprochement with Syria and the Arabs on the basis of abidance by the binding Arab resolutions, one will find that the pretext of the circles in the Egyptian regime which have good intentions is that the abrogation of these accords will expose Egypt to momentous political, economic, and military perils, that though they suffer from the consequences or the accords and are aware of their negative aspects, they do not see any benefit in proclaiming the abrogation from their side, and that they prefer to bypass the

accords by coming closer to the Arabs, coordinating with them and proceeding together toward the international conference.

In reality, this is a justification which is not characterized by courage, responsibility, nor is it set off by the qualities of leaders who can take steps that will have historic impact. Had the late leader Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir adopted such a justification, he would not have nationalized the Suez Canal, broken the weapons monopoly, expelled the British occupiers from the Suez Canal, built the Aswan High Dam, triumphed over the tripartite aggression in 1956, brought about the downfall of British Prime Minister Anthony Eden, foiled all the maneuvers and conspiracies of John Foster Dulles and Alan Dulles or become the historic Egyptian leader whose name has become embedded in the conscience of the Egyptian people and of the Arab people in all the Arab countries.

The abrogation of the Camp David accords, practically and legally, is not impossible. The impossible thing is for Egypt to remain on the side of Israel and the United States and remote from the Arabs. The impossible thing is for Egyptian blood and resources to be sacrificed on the altar of accords which conflict with Egypt's national and pan-Arab interests. The impossible thing too is for the Egyptian people and Army to accept that Egypt remains indefinitely in the Camp David cage, far from its Arab nation and from its natural militant role for the liberation of this nation.

Circumstances are propitious for an Egyptian leader who will make the unavoidable national and pan-Arab decision that will reconstitute the balance of power in the region and release the huge potential in Egypt and the Arab countries similar to the potential which enabled 'Abd al-Nasir to confront the United States, Britain, France, and Israel and to score historic achievements which even his enemies could not deny or obliterate.

The Egyptian leader who fulfills the aspirations of Egypt and the Arabs for Egypt's return to its natural place within the ranks of its nation and to the side of its sister countries will be supported by the great Egyptian people, the heroic Egyptian Army, and the Arab masses from the ocean to the Gulf. He will also find Arab potential at his disposal that will compensate and assist Egypt. He will also find support from Syria with all its resources and the solidarity and support of all the Arab countries.

Such a force will be capable of changing the balance of power in the region and of restoring Egypt to its former status, prestige, and importance.

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CSO: 4400/150

COMMENTARY: U.S. 'WILL OF AGGRESSION' WILL NOT SUCCEED

JN081521 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Feb 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners, those who have been closely following developments in the region since Washington began coordination with the United Kingdom and Israel on its frenzied campaign against Syria under the cover of combating terrorism have undoubtedly noticed that the United States has made its calculations on the basis that its siege of Syria will achieve results as soon as it succeeds in isolating Syria on the Arab and international level because Syria has been and continues to be the insurmountable obstacle to the U.S. settlement which is based on the Camp David accords, because Syria has been and continues to be the effective Arab force which confronts all attempts to impose U.S. and Zionist hegemony on the region, and because Syria has been moving and continues to move on the Arab and international level to formulate a cohesive Arab and Islamic stand that is hostile to the policy of containment of the region and that will be capable of liberating the land, regaining rights, and garnering an international stand that will support our just causes, abides by international resolutions; and highlights the importance of implementing these resolutions in a manner that emphasizes respect for the United Nations and safeguards its role of protecting and enhancing international peace and security.

Not only has Syria confronted the campaign of hostility that was led by Washington, London, and Tel Aviv, but it has also shown to the world at large who the real terrorists are who seek to impose the law of the jungle on international politics instead of the UN Charter and its provisions. Syria has called on the United Nations to hold an international conference to define terrorism and to distinguish between it and the just struggle the people and the liberation movements are waging to liberate their land and safeguard their sovereignty.

Syria succeeded in foiling this hostile campaign. Syria also proved at the Islamic summit in Kuwait that it is the resounding voice which expresses the determination of the Arabs and Moslems to confront the perils of the U.S.-Zionist strategic alliance in the region. This was demonstrated in the resolutions the Islamic summit and Syria is not afraid and no one can frighten it; it has demonstrated in words and deeds that threats will not make it budge

from its pan-Arab and national militant course. Washington, which did not learn lessons from the Lebanese events and from past experience, resumed its gunboat policy to give the impression that it still can extricate its settlement from its current dilemma and that it can undermine any efforts to hold an international conference on peace in the region under UN auspices. Washington may succeed in disturbing the Mediterranean for some time but it will never succeed in imposing the will of aggression on the Arabs.

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CSO: 4400/150

INTERIOR MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON RELATIONS WITH TURKEY

NC221552 Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish 16 Jan 87 p 1, 13

["Exclusive" interview with Syrian Interior Minister Muhammad Ghabbash by CUMHURIYET correspondent Cengiz Candar in Damascus--date not given]

[Text] [Candar] Mr Minister, how do you assess the question of security between Turkey and Syria? Do you agree that the level of security between the two countries is satisfactory?

[Ghabbash] Relations between the two countries are generally good. Both countries are cooperating for the maintenance of peace and security on each other's territory. They are both careful about mutual peace and security. In view of this, I can say that Syria feels very comfortable over its relations with Turkey, which is a friendly and neighboring country.

[Candar] Rumors circulate in Turkey from time to time to the effect that Syria has various complaints over the question of border security. There are infiltrations into Syria for the purpose of carrying out acts of violence. Is this correct?

[Ghabbash] It is true that certain elements infiltrated into Syria from Turkey in the past and carried out a number of operations, such as attacks on buses on the highway connecting Damascus and Aleppo. However, the Turkish Government had nothing to do with acts of violence of this kind. Nor has it been involved in acts of terrorism.

[Candar] That is not what I meant. The purpose of my question was to establish whether Syria is demanding stronger measures from the Turkish Government to guarantee border security?

[Ghabbash] We know from our cooperation with the Turkish Interior Ministry in particular that Turkish officials take great pains in this regard. They will do whatever is necessary to prevent infiltrations, that is, when they are informed about them. A number of the activists are Syrian. The others are Turks. They have engaged in illegal activities against our people.

[Candar] In other words, Syria does not have additional demands to put to the Turkish authorities.

[Ghabbash] We cannot ask for anything else. Given the existing cooperation between Turkey and Syria, and the importance we attach to our mutual security, we are confident that the Turkish authorities will prevent the occurrence of such incidents whenever they are able to do so. They have given us information about incidents that took place in the past. Consequently, we cannot make demands on matters which had nothing to do with them, and indeed we have not done so.

[Candar] Let us now view the situation from the other side of the border. The Turkish people believe that certain elements in the region, which are a threat to Turkey, are using Syrian territory for their own ends. A number of these elements are Turkish citizens. Can you say whether Syria is in full control of the border between the two countries?

[Ghabbash] I think your question should be put another way. You have given the impression that what you have said is a reality. Your question implied something that is not the case. The people of Turkey, which is a friendly and fraternal country, must believe that the elements you have mentioned are not present on Syrian territory.

[Candar] I did not say that they were on Syrian territory. I only said that they exist in the region and use Syria to cross into Turkey.

[Ghabbash] I am talking on behalf of Syria. I am talking as the minister of interior. Your questions implied that Syrian territory is being used for operations aimed against Turkey's security. In my capacity as minister of interior, I am saying that this is not the situation. These elements do not exist in Syria. I would like to reiterate that we will not allow elements who wish to threaten Turkey's security to realize their objectives.

[Candar] Can your words be taken as a Syrian assurance to Turkey on the question of security?

[Ghabbash] Turkey and Syria have good neighborly relations. In addition to this, there is full understanding between the two countries. These relations and understanding constitute an impediment to incidents of this kind. The long border between us will not give cause for concern. Syria wants the border to represent good relations, affection, and cooperation. As I have already pointed out, it is impossible that the situation implied by your question should arise.

[Candar] Let me rephrase my question. The Turkish people do not believe that the elements which threaten Turkey have established themselves on Syrian territory. However, they do believe that these elements, in other words, the members of various Armenian and Kurdish organizations, are based in the Al-Biqa' valley in Lebanon, which is controlled by Syria. From there, they are infiltrating into Turkey through Syria.

[Ghabbash] Let me reply to the first part of your question. Lebanon is an independent country. Syria's presence in some parts of Lebanon is aimed

at helping the fraternal Arab people and the government of that country to safeguard their security and territorial integrity. It is also aimed at contributing toward the realization of national objectives which concern both countries. We have a mutual understanding with the fraternal people of Lebanon on this matter. In view of this, Syria is not in Lebanon to resolve problems in Al-Biqa' or any other region on behalf of the state of Lebanon. As for the Turkish citizens and other elements you mentioned in your question, well, there are many communities in that country. However, I would like to stress that Syria will not allow any operation to be directed against Turkey from within its territory. I believe that the first part of your question should be directed to officials in Lebanon and not to the interior minister of Syria. We are not in Lebanon to police it. A government exists in that country and your question should be directed to Lebanese officials.

Now let us discuss the use of Syrian territory as a means of access to Turkey. Syria is Turkey's neighbor. The citizens of the two countries, and in fact those of other countries as well, use the border to cross from Syria into Turkey and vice versa. This applies to all neighboring countries. It is impossible for us to know whether there are anti-Turkish individuals among those who cross the Syrian border. Nevertheless, I can definitely say that it would be impossible for any person known by Syria to have planned to harm the interests of the Turkish people to use Syrian territory as a means of access to Turkey.

[Candar] Turkey and Syria were expected to sign an agreement on mutual security when Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm visited Turkey last February. Why wasn't the agreement signed?

[Ghabbash] Prime Minister al-Kasm's visit to Turkey in February 1986 established favorable relations which brought the two countries closer together. This was in accordance with the guidelines laid down by Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Kenan Evren for the development of bilateral relations. Although no agreement was signed on security, it is my conviction that the visit produced good and useful results. There is no need to discuss why the agreement was not signed or whether it will be signed in the future. This is just one topic. Talks were held with a number of ministers in Ankara on matters concerning their respective fields of responsibility. Agreement was reached on many issues concerning the two countries. The outcome of the talks was auspicious. Agreements were arrived at that serve the interests of both countries. Meanwhile, a number of principles were established for future work. Relations between our two governments are good. Border talks will be held when necessary to resolve any problems. There is good cooperation between Turkey and Syria.

[Candar] Do you mean to say that under the present circumstances there is no need for a reciprocal security agreement?

[Ghabbash] Talks between the officials of the two countries are always useful. These are aimed at developing the relations between the two countries

and upgrading them to a higher level. I am convinced that the Ankara visit produced a high number of positive results. Mutual understanding continues to prevail. Talks that will be held in the future will also produce useful results. I would like to reiterate that there is no problem between Turkey and Syria. Bilateral relations are progressing along the lines indicated by the presidents of the two countries. There is no situation between us that needs to be resolved. I believe that our brothers in Turkey share this view.

However, this should not be taken to mean that problems do not exist on the border between the two countries. Nevertheless, border problems are insignificant, everyday incidents which do not upset relations between the two countries. They could occur anywhere in the world. The officials concerned prefer to overlook security violations. No one is complaining at this.

[Candar] I would like to return to the reciprocal security agreement because the Turkish people see it as a sign of good will toward Turkey on the part of Syria. Prime Minister Ozal will be visiting Syria during the current year and the agreement will be discussed at that time. Do you think an agreement on security arrangements could be reached during his visit?

[Ghabbash] I would like to recall that Prime Minister al-Kasm extended an invitation to Prime Minister Ozal when he visited Turkey, which was accepted. I hope that Prime Minister Ozal will be our guest in Syria in the near future. I am sure that Prime Minister Ozal's visit to Syria will be successful and useful from the point of view of both countries, just as Prime Minister al-Kasm's visit to Ankara was.

[Candar] In conclusion, Mr Minister, can you assure the Turkish public that the border between Turkey and Syria is one of friendship and peace? Can the people of Turkey consider themselves safe as far as the Syrian border is concerned?

[Ghabbash] Absolutely. There will be nothing from the Syrian side to upset the Turkish people. Our relations with the Turkish people are based on friendship and historical and good neighborly ties. We pray for the wellbeing of our neighbors. Their wellbeing has a bearing on ours. I am convinced that the Turkish people are aware of the Syrian people's affection and good neighborly feelings. Those who fabricate and spread the rumors that groups plotting against Turkey's security are being sheltered on Syrian territory do not want to see good relations between the two countries. Rumors of this kind are spread by elements which oppose the close relations between Turkey and Syria. The rumors are untrue. Relations between the two countries are good.

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CSO: 4400/150

GOVERNMENT CRACKS DOWN ON FOREIGN CURRENCY SMUGGLING

Currency Smugglers Sentenced

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 9 Dec 86 p 1

[Article: "Prison Sentences for Two Currency Smugglers"]

[Text] Damascus (SANA)--The Economic Security Court in Damascus on 8 December 1986 passed two sentences, committing one Muhannad 'Asasah to 10 years in prison at hard labor, and committing one Muhammad [Hadiha] to 5 years in prison at hard labor. The court also confiscated the foreign currencies seized with them and fined them the equivalent of double that amount, in accordance with the requirements of Article 15 of Revised Economic Penal Code No 37 of 1966.

Currency Dealers Sentenced

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 11 Dec 86 p 1

[Article: "New Sentences for a Number of Foreign Currency Dealers"]

[Text] Damascus (SANA)--The Economic Security Court in Damascus on 10 December 1986 sentenced Yusuf Sallu and [Avador Minharian] to 5 years in prison at hard labor and to confiscate the foreign currencies and precious metals seized [with them]; it also decided to fine them at double the value.

This came after their conviction for dealing in foreign currencies and precious metals in accordance with the requirements of Article 15 of Revised Economic Penal Code No 37 of 1966. The court also sentenced one Anton Haddad to 5 years in prison for preventing funds from returning to the Syrian Arab Republic; in addition, he was required to pay an amount equal to that whose return he delayed, and he was fined double the amount in question.

Convictions for Currency Violations Continue

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 25 Dec 86 p 1

[Article: "Economic Security Court Passes Prison Sentences on a Number of Foreign Currency Dealers"]

[Text] Damascus (SANA)--The Economic Security Court in Damascus on 24 December 1986 sentenced one Muhammad Amin Suqiyah to 15 years in prison at hard labor, and one Ibrahim Shuwayrikh to 5 years at hard labor; Ahmad Tabbahah, 'Adnan Dawalibi, 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Tuhayni, and Mustafa al-Hindi's sentences were commuted to 2 and 1/2 years at hard labor. The court also decided to confiscate the foreign currencies seized [with them] or to require [them to pay] an amount equal to the foreign currencies involved. The first and second [convicts] were fined double the amount, and the remainder were fined the exact amount. This occurred after they were convicted either or both of two felonies: dealing in foreign currencies and smuggling it abroad.

Also on the same date the court sentenced 'Abd-al-Hamid Zaydan and Hasan Darwish Ahmad to a year's imprisonment, requiring them [to make restitutions] and to pay fines. This occurred after their conviction of the misdemeanor of engaging in the buying and selling of foreign currencies. All this was in accordance with the requirements of Articles 15 and 22 of revised Economic Penal Code No 37 of 1966.

The court also decided that Muhammad Ghassan al-Zarrad, Ma'mun Sukkar, Junayd Junayd, Muhammad Abu Shushah, and Yusif Kayyal were acquitted of the charges against them.

On the same day, the Economic Security Court in Hims sentenced one Fa'iq Mandu to 15 years imprisonment and to confiscate the foreign currencies seized with him and to fine him double [its value]. This occurred after he was convicted of attempting to smuggle foreign currencies out of the country. The sentence was handed down in accordance with the requirements of Revised Legal Ordinance No 24 of 1968.

Four Sentenced for Currency Violations

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 12 Jan 87 p 1

[Article: "Four Different Prison Sentences for Citizens Charged With Currency Dealing"]

[Text] Damascus (SANA)--The Economic Security Court in Damascus yesterday convicted Bishar al-Wari' and Muhammad Ma'mun Qadah of the felony of dealing in foreign currencies, and decided to punish both of them with 5 years in prison at hard labor, confiscating the foreign currencies seized with them and fining them equivalent to double the amount. The court also convicted Wasif al-Jada and Ahmad Bakur of the misdemeanor of practicing the buying and selling of foreign currencies, and sentenced both of them to a year in prison

with confiscation and fines. This is in accordance with Article 15 of Revised Economic Penal Code No 37 of 1966.

Court Sessions Continue

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 13 Jan 87 p 1

[Article: "New Sentences for Dealers in Foreign Currencies"]

[Text] Damascus (SANA)--The Economic Security Court in Damascus on 12 January 1987 convicted Muwaffaq al-Tishshah and 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Kurj of the felony of dealing in foreign currencies, and punished both of them with 3 years imprisonment, confiscated the foreign currencies seized with them, and fined them equivalent to double the amount. The court convicted Muhammad Kasim al-Masuti of the misdemeanor of dealing in foreign currencies, and punished him with fines valued at 5,000 Syrian pounds and confiscated the foreign currencies seized. This is in accordance with the provisions of Articles 3 and 8 of Revised Legislative Decree No 24 of 1986.

Sentencing of Dealers Continues

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 25 Jan 87 p 1

[Article: "New Economic Sentences for Dealers in Foreign Currencies"]

[Text] The Economic Security Court on 19 and 22 January 1987 convicted Mamduh Dahruj of the felony of dealing in foreign currencies and sentenced him to 5 years in prison at hard labor, confiscating the property seized with him and fining him double its value. Hasan al-Kayid and Rif'at Watfah were convicted of the felony of embezzling the public monies. Both of them were sentenced to 5 years in prison at hard labor and fined double the embezzled amount. Also, the court declared Shafiq al-Awdhin, Walid Dahruj, Khaldun al-Sha''ar, Walid al-Samadi, and Qasim al-'Asimi not guilty as charged.

Border Patrols Search for Currency Smugglers

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 10-16 Jan 87 p 35

[Article: "Syrians Smuggle Hard Currency, Gold, and Syrian Currency to Lebanon"]

[Text] Reports mentioned concentrated [efforts by] Syrian patrols from intelligence, the civil police, and the investigation authorities; the patrols are charged with stopping cars headed for Beirut or Tripoli at the two border posts in Judayyidah Yabus and al-'Abdah and thoroughly searching the passengers. This occurred in the aftermath of the operations to smuggle hard currency and large quantities of Syrian currency, gold, and precious stones into Lebanon, with an aim to either deposit them in the banks or smuggle them abroad and deposit them in European or American banks; such operations have increased lately. A large number of Syrian citizens were arrested and charged with smuggling, and will receive harsh punishment in accordance with laws recently passed for this purpose.

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CSO: 4404/260

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

SECRETARY GENERAL'S INTERVIEW WITH EGYPTIAN MAGAZINE REPRINTED

Aden AL-THAWRI in Arabic 24 Jan 87 pp 3, 4

[Interview with Secretary General of Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee 'Ali Salim al-Bid by Ahmad Hamrush: "The Main Reason for the Occurrence of a Catastrophe Such As That in Our Country Is the Absence of Democracy on the Party and Mass Level and the Prevalence of the Spirit of Dominance on the Part of the Individual, Leading to Dictatorship"]

[Text] In its issue 3056, which came out on 5 January 1987, the Egyptian magazine ROSE AL-YUSUF published an extensive interview with Comrade 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party central committee, in which he described the course of the tragic events that came out of the bloody 13 January conspiracy the conspirator 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his clique had planned and carried out and the flagrant damage that befell our country's economic, social and political structure owing to the conspiracy.

Our comrade the secretary general referred to the real reasons which lay behind the deliberate destructive acts the conspirator 'Ali Nasir Muhammad had set about engaging in, which enveloped the domestic economy and the party structure, and the attempt to deflect the revolution from its true course. He stressed the ability of our party and people and their insistence on carrying out the struggle and building up what the conspiracy had destroyed in various areas, pointing out that our masses had actually managed to eliminate the manifestations of ruin and destruction in a short period of time.

The comrade secretary general stressed that our party's domestic, national and internationalist policy is a firm one which derives its continuity from the principles and goals of our party, the Yemeni Socialist Party.

In view of the importance of the interview, AL-THAWRI is herewith republishing its text in full.

Flags of Palestine were intertwined with flags of Yemen and demonstrations proceeded along the streets, repeating anthems and cries in a genuine Arab and national festival.

No one had expected that events would burst out in such a terrifying form. At an interview which 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the secretary general of the central committee, gave me the morning of the arrival, my first question was:

The Arabs have all been following the tragedy which occurred in the Democratic Republic of Yemen with extreme anxiety. Could one say that its effects have been totally eliminated?

'Ali Salim al-Bid clarified his point of view in depth, stating:

"The bloody, unsuccessful coup attempt which took place on 13 January of this year, which 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his clique planned and carried out, created extensive destruction in organizations, institutions, facilities, buildings and the domestic economy, and also in the party buildings, but the most serious and profound thing this conspiracy could have caused was the elimination of this experiment and its progressive revolutionary plan. Our party and our people stood up to this conspiracy and thwarted it, and, since its elimination, have worked to restore things to their proper place and eliminate its effects. Our people, under the leadership of their Yemeni Socialist Party, have risen to rebuild the country. As you have seen, the buildings and roads of our capital, Aden, have been repaired, and we are determined to make them more beautiful than they were. The government's institutions are functioning in a normal manner and our army has been reorganized and is able competently to defend the experiment and the territory of the nation. Our party's organizations in Aden, Abyan and Shibwah have held their conferences and elected their leaders, and are competently leading party and political action in the three governorates. Our mass organizations have held their conferences and have elected their leaders. Our people manifested the greatest expression of their solidarity with this experiment under the leadership of the Yemeni Socialist Party when they said yes to our Socialist Party's policy and the overwhelming majority of the people who have the right to vote went out to elect their representatives to the Higher People's Assembly and the local people's assemblies, which will work to make their parliamentary activities a true example of the expression of the interests of the toiling masses and the implantation of our democratic experiment. With a responsible national spirit, we have declared a general amnesty for all fugitives except for those who planned and carried out this conspiracy, headed by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad; they are no more than 48 persons in number and next 2 December they will be brought to a fair trial with 94 other accused persons. The period of the general amnesty has been extended to the end of this year. Large numbers of people have returned to their homes, now that we have offered them every guarantee to go back to their jobs and their homes in order to exercise their rights as citizens with full rights and duties. The overwhelming majority of the imprisoned persons have been released and all the remaining people in prison will be released soon.

"Thus, we can say that we have set out the true basis for eliminating the effects of this bloody, destructive conspiracy."

Since I felt that the leaf of tragedy had not yet been wholly turned over, I asked 'Ali Salim al-Bid, as compassion continued to dominate the heart:

"What lessons can one say the people of Democratic Yemen have derived in order to avoid this catastrophe in the future?"

'Ali Salim al-Bid, in a confident tone, said:

"We consider that the main reason for the occurrence of this sort of catastrophe in our country is the withholding of democracy on the party and mass levels and the prevalence among individuals of the spirit of dominance, which leads to dictatorship and the narrowing of the collective view and collective leadership. The weakness of the connection with the masses and the leadership's alienation from their daily concerns and problems of living constitute fertile ground for the corruption of the leadership and its quest for dictatorship. By returning to democracy and collective leadership, making the interests of the toiling masses of the people prevail over all the interests of the individual and committing oneself firmly to the platform of scientific socialism, the literature of the Yemeni Socialist Party and the exercise of the constitution and the laws in effect in the republic, it will not be possible for the likes of what happened early on the morning of the wretched 13 January to take place."

It is difficult for one to discover a change in Democratic Yemen's policy transcending the disputes which have occurred among comrades in the command. In order to be reassured, I asked:

"Have there been changes in Democratic Yemen's policy toward Arab national solidarity?"

[Answer] Democratic Yemen's policy toward various issues has been a practical expression of our Yemeni Socialist Party's ideology and policy and was never an expression of the platform of an individual. Whoever tried to depart from it found himself outside the revolutionary experiment in our country or in the ranks of the counterrevolution. Our policy vis-a-vis Arab nationalist solidarity is founded on the basis of struggle against imperialism and Zionism and their schemes to dominate our Arab countries and their resources and capabilities.

The manifestations of Yemeni unity are still the pillar through which stability in Yemen, north and south, can be realized. I asked 'Ali Salim al-Bid:

"What is the true nature of the relationship with the Yemen Arab Republic (the northern section)? There are agreements for unity and two ministers, in Aden and Sanaa, to follow up on the steps which will lead to the unity of the Yemeni people."

'Ali Salim al-Bid said:

"The relationship between the two sections of the one nation are headed toward the better. We for our part are doing everything that will have the effect of stimulating the committees of unity, the Higher Yemeni Council, the joint ministerial committees and economic organizations, unfettered freedom of citizens' movement between the two sections and the expansion of trade and coordination in various contexts.

"The issue of Yemeni unity is a crucial one and one must work sincerely and perseverantly toward its realization by peaceful means and through

democratic dialogue. In this spirit, proceeding from this premise, we are most concerned to remedy all issues which might have arisen as a result of the evil events of 13 January."

With 'Ali Salim al-Bid, I moved away from the context of domestic issues to that of other problems.

[Question] How do you view the Gulf war, especially with the disclosure of the secret ties supporting the Iranian government with American weapons via Israel?

[Answer] From the outset we have been against this war, which has drained the powers of two neighboring peoples, and we have said, and still are saying, that imperialist agents lie behind the inflammation of this war and that its first and last beneficiaries are American imperialism and the international monopolies. This war exploded between these two Moslem countries at a time when they could have played a great, positive role against imperialism and Zionism, our main, common enemy. Now, we call on our brothers in both Iraq and Iran to follow all possible roads for the sake of stopping this war and this tremendous drain of blood and resources and to start a political dialogue to resolve all the problems that exist between them by peaceful means.

We paused to consider our focal cause, the cause of the people of Palestine.

[Question] What is your view regarding the best means for supporting the Palestinian revolution, since it is the focal cause of the Arab nation? What is the method for rising above the disputes that are fragmenting the Arabs' unity?

[Answer] We believe that the Palestinian revolution's first priority is solidarity in Palestinian revolutionary action against imperialism and Zionism and the restoration of the unity of the Palestine Liberation Organization on the basis of its national program and the Aden-Algiers agreement. For our part, we will stint no efforts to offer every form of aid to the Palestinian revolution. Within this approach, our party is contributing a modest role in reducing the distance in views among Palestinian forces and giving concrete form to common denominators as a basis for dialogue on behalf of the unity of Palestinian revolutionary action.

The means for transcending the disputes which are fragmenting the unity of the Arabs are a joint national responsibility, and, by making our higher national interest prevail, we will be firmly advancing toward the transcendence of these disputes. In either case, the useful thing is for us to turn toward action toward unity for the sake of our crucial causes.

The conversation brought us to the Islamic conference which will be held in January in Kuwait, and I asked:

"Is it appropriate for the Islamic summit conference to be held in Kuwait while the Arabs are in a state of incapacity over holding a summit conference and Egypt is officially remote from ties with the Arabs in their league?"

'Ali Salim al-Bid replied:

"We will take part in the Islamic summit conference in Kuwait, and our participation will be for the sake of taking part in action toward unity of Arab ranks against the common enemy, Zionism and Israel. We will not hesitate to take part in any activity which will in effect support our national and crucial causes."

[Question] What is your view of Red Sea security, since Democratic Yemen has a role in it, by virtue of its strategic location controlling the Bab El Mandeb?

[Answer] We consider that the Red Sea must be totally devoid of all forms of imperialist and Zionist military presence and that its security and safety and freedom of shipping in it are a matter that has been delegated only to the countries looking out on it, in order to prevent any military activity of imperialism and Israel on it. Therefore, we call the countries concerned to joint action and coordination to discuss everything that will have the effect of preserving the security and peace of the Red Sea and realizing the security and stability of the peoples looking out over this sea.

The final point of the conversation concerned peace, the most cherished goal mankind must struggle for in order to guarantee life, civilization and progress.

[Question] What in your view is the best means for realizing peace in this region, as a guarantee of the attainment of development and progress for its peoples?

[Answer] The main cause of shocks to peace and the lack of security and stability in this region is constant Israeli and Zionist aggression against the rights of the Palestinian Arab people and Arab land. This constitutes the spearhead of the imperialist schemes which are aimed at the continued dominance over our Arab region and the plunder of its resources. There is no doubt that the Iraqi-Iranian war also represents a factor of instability and the failure to implant security in the region, and we consider that the causative force for that, as well, are American imperialism and the international monopolist companies, which are the sole beneficiary of it.

The best means for realizing peace in this region in order to guarantee the attainment of development and progress for its peoples lie first and foremost in total, complete, unconditional withdrawal from all the Arab territories Israel has occupied.

We mean by such withdrawal from Arab territories that it is the restoration of total sovereignty to these territories and the return of the Palestinian Arab people to their territories with all their usurped rights and the establishment of their independent national state on their territory, the halt to the Iraqi-Iranian war and the solution of the problems between the two neighboring countries by political and peaceful means, and the control by independent national decisionmaking of subsequent political, economic and social development. We consider that in order to realize all this, unified

Arab national action toward the realization of this lofty goal will be necessary, in full coordination with all friendly peoples, especially those adjacent to our countries and those which support our just causes.

I left Aden with mixed images in mind that combined tragedy, grief and hope.

11887

CSO: 4404/232

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

NEW TRADE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH MALTA

Aden 14 UKTUBAR in Arabic 22 Jan 87 p 1

[Article: "Barbara Ends Her Visit to Our Country: Signature of the First Trade Agreement by the Two Countries"]

[Text] Yesterday morning a long-range trade agreement between our country and the Republic of Malta was signed in the presence of Comrade Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the political bureau and chairman of the board of the presidency of the Higher People's Council, and Mrs Agatha Barbara, president of the Republic of Malta. This is to be considered the first agreement for commerce in manufactured goods and raw materials between the two countries.

The newspaper 14 UKTUBAR has learned that the agreement contains two lists stating Yemeni and Maltese commodities in which transactions will be made by the commercial organizations in the two countries.

The first list contains Malta's exports to our country in goods such as medical equipment, raw materials to respond to the needs of our domestic industries and other commodities.

The second list also contains Yemeni commodities which will be exported to the Republic of Malta, such as fish products, cotton, the products of our domestic industry and other commodities.

The two parties have also given agreement to development in the volume of trade between themselves in the future.

Mrs Agatha Barbara and the delegation accompanying her left Aden yesterday at noon after a visit to our country which lasted 3 days. Comrade Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, a number of members of the central committee, ministers and officials in the party and the government and some members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps accredited to our country were at their departure on the airport grounds.

A short time before her departure, Mrs Barbara made a press statement to the media in which she expressed her satisfaction at having made a visit to our

country, describing it as having been successful and serving relations of cooperation between the two friendly countries.

She praised the achievements our Yemeni people have realized in various areas and also expressed her gratitude with the reception and generosity of the hospitality with which she was greeted in Democratic Yemen.

In addition, the Yemeni-Maltese discussions concluded yesterday morning with the meeting of a second round of talks in the secretariat of the board of the presidency of the Higher People's Council, headed by Comrade Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas for the Yemeni side and Mrs Agatha Barbara for the Maltese side.

Comrade al-'Attas expressed his extreme happiness at Mrs Barbara's visit to our country, pointing out that this visit would strengthen the relations of friendship and mutual understanding between the two peoples and would pave the way for cooperation between them.

Comrade al-'Attas stressed our desire to develop relations of joint cooperation in the economic and cultural areas in service of the two friendly peoples, and appreciated the Republic of Malta's position vis-a-vis peace, security and stability.

For her part, Mrs Barbara expressed her extreme happiness with this visit, pointing out that the visit afforded her the opportunity to learn about the process of construction and development underway in Democratic Yemen from close at hand and also to study the various aspects of cooperation between the two countries. She stressed her country's desire to develop this in the future.

In another area, in the context of her visit to some facilities in the capital, Aden, Mrs Agatha Barbara made a visit to the Sirah model kindergarten in the city of Crater yesterday. There to receive her and the delegation accompanying her was Comrade Salim Basilm, minister of education, and accompanying her was Comrade Dr 'Abdallah Ahmad 'Uthman, the minister of industry, trade and finance and the chairman of the honor delegation accompanying her.

11887

CSO: 4404/233

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

ECONOMIC PRIORITIES RELY HEAVILY ON PUBLIC SECTOR

Beirut AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 24 Jan 87 p 29

[Article by Nabil Khuri: "Economy of South Yemen"]

[Text] The interior regions of South Yemen remained undeveloped long before the country became independent in 1967 with the exception of the colony of Aden, which was part of the British empire. It was remarkably prosperous because of its geographic location on the sea lanes connecting the Far East, India, and East Africa with Europe through the Suez Canal. The British Petroleum Company refinery, which ended operations in 1954, was the hub of industrial and commercial activities. When the Yemenis succeeded in obtaining their independence, the economy received several severe blows, the most important being the closing of the Suez Canal and deprivation of the country of revenues from the transit trade and ship supply activities. Yemen not only lost British aid but also the foreign sector, which prospered from the presence of the British army in Aden. Moreover, the same period witnessed a decline in the British pound and a lowering of the levels of foreign capital. Hence, the economy began to rely on foreign aid mainly from the Eastern bloc countries and, to a lesser extent, from related Arab and international organizations.

The Yemeni government, which has adopted the socialist way in its economic policy, is trying to follow a strategy of national development in accordance with a central plan and state ownership of most of the economic institutions. It has therefore introduced bureaucratic reforms carried out by the Yemeni authorities after independence to enhance the role of the private sector, especially in the urban areas, while it abolished the feudal structures in the rural areas, replacing them with cooperative associations and state farms. In 1969 the authorities nationalized all the major foreign interests with the exception of the British Petroleum Company refinery, which was not nationalized until 1977. However, the government recently took steps to provide incentives for the private sector, especially in the fields of agriculture, housing, trade, and services. It also passed a law in 1981 entitling direct foreign investments to benefit from tax exemptions and other incentives.

South Yemen was able up to now to carry out two development plans. The first, a 3-year plan, covered the years 1971-1972 and 1973-1974 while the second, a 5-year plan, covered the years 1974-1975 and 1978-1979. After a period of consolidation, the government announced a second 5-year plan (1981-1985) in

1980. The main objectives of these plans remained, on the whole, virtually unchanged: meeting the basic requirements of the people, strengthening the main government structures, developing the productivity of the economy especially in the agricultural, industrial, and mining sectors, and raising the export levels of domestic products. The first plan, however, concentrated mainly on carrying out the production projects based on the intensified use of manpower. The second plan suffered from a labor shortage because of emigration while the volume of foreign aid increased during the plan, thereby enabling the planners to give priority to projects relying on the intensified use of capital. It should be noted that the Yemeni government achieved considerable success in bringing together domestic and foreign sources capable of financing the development plans since the early 1970s.

The current 5-year plan is trying to benefit from the gains achieved by the previous plans. It is concentrating on increasing productivity, developing social services, broadening the infrastructure, and raising the annual rate of growth of the GDP to 11 percent above the actual average 6 percent annual increase during the last decade. The plan is also aimed at boosting real annual production by 18, 12, and 9 percent in industry, agriculture, and fishing, respectively. The share of the public and cooperative sector in the gross national product is scheduled to be increased from 62 to 72 percent and that of the mixed sector from 7 to 9 percent. The plan has earmarked 508 million Yemeni dinars for investment to be distributed as follows: 31 percent for public services, 29 percent for industry, 23 percent for transportation and communications, and 17 percent for agriculture and fishing.

The main domestic sectors that have grown since independence are services, defense, construction, transportation, and the public sector. Credit for this is due primarily to public outlays and, secondarily, to private remittances during the last few years. Industry too has recorded appreciable gains while the agriculture and fishing share of total production declined from 22 percent in 1973 to 10 percent in 1982, although these two sectors use a large part of the public assistance. Many different kinds of crops are grown in the few fertile regions. The government is able to invest large amounts of the foreign aid that it receives in such agriculture projects as 'Abyan and Lahij. Despite the encouragement given the agricultural sector by the authorities in the form of wage and price control, the performance of this sector is considered disappointing because South Yemen has to rely on imports to cover two-thirds of its food requirements. By way of comparison, Yemen profits from its regional waters, which abound in sardines, tuna, shellfish, and green turtles. In 1980 the domestic fishing fleet caught a total of 90,000 tons of fish so that this sector accounted for one-third of the volume of exports. However, the production of this sector has fluctuated in recent years because of the poor environmental circumstances and the life cycles of the fishes.

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CSO: 4404/207

VARIOUS CAPITAL INVESTMENTS IN HADRAMAWT REVIEWED

Aden 14 UKTUBAR in Arabic 2 Jan 87 p 1

[Article: "31,115,200 Dinars in Second Plan Year Capital Investments in Hadramawt Governorate"]

[Text] Total planned capital investments in Hadramawt Governorate projects for the second year of the second 5-year plan came to 31,115,200 dinars, from government banking, intrinsic and foreign sources of financing.

This was declared by Comrade Najib Bukayr, director of the planning unit in the governorate, in a statement to ADEN PRESS AGENCY. He pointed out that work would be underway in a number of projects in various industrial, agricultural and fish sectors and the areas of health, education, communications and housing, asserting that the most important of the projects on which work would be continuing were the sector of industry, trade, supply and the consolidation of the main electricity systems, since five towns east of al-Mukalla and the villages of Nashtun, Bi'r 'Ali and Qusay'ir would be provided with electricity and work would take place on the water projects in Say'un, Hajar, Wadi 'Amad, al-Hami, Qusay'ir, al-Mukallah and the rural areas.

With respect to agricultural, fish, construction, housing, education, health, culture, information and communications aspects, he stated that these sectors were witnessing a tangible development. The sum of 9.59 million dinars had been allocated to the agricultural sector. In the fish sector, a number of cooperatives and the fish cannery in al-Mukalla would be developed and modernized and in the sector of education, 70 classrooms would be built for the al-Wahdah school and 10 classrooms for the secondary school and a unified school with 12 classrooms would be built in al-Mukallah. With respect to health considerations, the Fuwuh central hospital would be completed in al-Mukallah and health aspects would be developed in a number of directorates. In the cultural and information area, work would begin on the radio transmission station project with a capacity of 750 kilowatts. In the building and housing sector, work would continue in the development of Say'un Tiryam and the preparation of a study on the Wadi Du'an road, the maintenance of a number of roads and the completion of the 24 resident apartments in the al-Rayyan area in al-Mukalla. In the area of communications, work on the new Khalaf project and the project for mobile telephone exchanges in a number of directorates and the Bank of Yemen project in al-Mukalla would be continuing.

BRIEFS

PARTY TRAINING COURSE--The second training course for the acquisition of military knowledge for members and nominated members of the Yemeni Socialist Party began yesterday at the Martyred Maj 'Umar 'Ali people's militia school. At the inauguration ceremonies, Comrade Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general and secretary of the central committee, gave a guidance talk in which he conveyed the greetings of the political bureau and the central committee secretariat to the people studying in this course, praising their organizational ability in carrying out the central committee's decree bearing on the weapons training of party members and pointing out that when it adopted this decision, the central committee based itself on specific circumstances which arose from those difficult moments our party and people went through as a consequence of the bloody unsuccessful coup conspiracy, since the weapons training of party members was taking place so that they would be able to cope with any dangers facing the revolution and defend our progressive regime and all revolutionary accomplishments. He expressed confidence that the Yemeni Socialist Party, which was armed with the theory of scientific socialism, was training itself today to be proficient at defending the revolution and would be able to lead it until all its objectives were realized. At the conclusion of his statement, he hoped that the party members would derive benefit from this course and acquire awareness and discipline. A number of statements were made at the celebration on behalf of the school administration and students. Attending the celebration were Comrades Dr Sayf Sa'il Khalid, member of the central committee and first secretary of the committee of the party organization in Aden Governorate, a number of comrades in the secretariat of the party organization and the national command of the people's militia. [Text] [Aden 14 UKTUBAR in Arabic 19 Jan 87 p 1] 11887

OIL AGREEMENT WITH ELF--Yesterday morning an agreement to explore for and produce oil was signed by the Ministry of Energy and Mining and the Elf Aquitaine Petroleum Company (Bighal) at the building of the oil exploration department in the Ministry of Energy and Mining. The period of this agreement, through which oil exploration and production will take place in the Aden-Abyan onshore and offshore region, totalling about 19,374 square kilometers in area, will be 6 years, broken down into two stages, with a period of 3 years for each stage. The first stage will consist of geological and geophysical activities, including an aerial magnetic survey and a seismic

survey, to be followed by an exploratory drilling program. Geophysical survey activities and exploratory drilling activities will take place in the second stage. Signing on behalf of the Ministry of Energy and Mines were Comrades Rashid al-Kaf, deputy minister of energy and mines, and Muhammad 'Abduh Rajih, director general of oil exploration, and for the company, Mr Pierre Moselle, board chairman of the company. Attending the signing ceremonies were the French ambassador in Aden and a number of officials in the Ministry of Energy and Mines. [Text] [Aden 14 UKTUBAR in Arabic 19 Jan 87 p 1] 11887

PROTOCOLS WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA--The protocol of the fifth session of the joint Yemeni-Czech committee was signed yesterday at noon after the conclusion of the activities of the session. The protocol contains Czechoslovakia's participation in the financing and execution of some projects listed in the third 5-year plan, in addition to the projects on whose financing agreement had been reached in the multilateral context with the countries of the Council of Economic Cooperation. A protocol for scientific and technical cooperation was also signed by the two countries for the years 1987-88 through which Czechoslovakia will contribute by providing experts in the areas of building, housing, industry, health and the provision of training courses for Yemeni personnel in Czechoslovakia in the areas of foreign trade, radio, television, health, planning, industry, agriculture, communications and banks. Signing the protocol for the Yemeni party was Dr Ja'far Hamid Muhammad, deputy minister of planning, while Comrade Joseph Kutshi, director general in the Ministry of Foreign Trade and director of the department of Arab and African Countries in the Republic of Czechoslovakia, signed it for the Czech party. In another area, a protocol for trade for 1987-88 was signed yesterday specifying the commodities to be included in trade between our country and Czechoslovakia. Signing it for the Yemeni party was 'Ali 'Abd-al-Karim, first deputy minister of industry, trade and supply, and for the Czech party, Comrade Joseph Kutshi. It is worth pointing out that agreement was reached on an increase in the quantities of these commodities, including powdered milk, which will be imported from Czechoslovakia. Also attending the ceremony of the signing of the protocols were representatives of the various ministries, the ambassador of the Republic of Czechoslovakia in Aden and members of the Yemeni and Czech delegations. [Text] [Aden 14 UKTUBAR in Arabic 20 Jan 87 no page given] 11887

CZECH LOAN--At the beginning of this week, negotiations took place between the two parties to the Yemeni-Czech economic committee which culminated in the provision of a government loan to our country estimated at \$10 million to support a number of productive economic projects. The Czech delegation to the committee left our country the day before yesterday, returning home after attending the committee's meetings. In another area, Comrade Salih 'Abdallah Muthanna, the minister of communications and president of the Yemeni-Czech friendship society, expressed his gratitude at the development and strengthening of Yemeni-Czech relations and at a reception on the occasion of the departure of the cultural attache in the Czech embassy in Aden praised the aid the friendly Czech people were offering to our Yemeni people. He stressed that the society would continue its efforts toward developing this relationship in the interests of the two friendly peoples. [Text] [Aden 14 UKTUBAR in Arabic 22 Jan 87 p 1] 11887

KUWAIT CRUDE PROCESSING AGREEMENT--Officials have stated that the Aden refinery will process 20,000 barrels of Kuwaiti crude oil a day in accordance with a new agreement South Yemen has concluded with the Kuwait National Petroleum Company. The officials did not mention other details concerning the agreement, which was concluded the day before yesterday in Aden, but it is believed that it can be renewed annually. The Aden refinery is now refining about half a million tons a year, the equivalent of 10,000 barrels a day, of Kuwaiti crude. South Yemen made contacts recently with Kuwait to increase the volume of Kuwaiti crude processed in the refinery to about 1.5 million tons a year (20,000 barrels a day). The refinery has been processing crude at 40 percent below capacity, which comes to 8.5 million tons, since 1985. In another area, it has been harmed by the suspension of Iranian shipments estimated at about 50,000 barrels a day in the past few months. [Text] [Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 23 Jan 87 p 16] 11887

JOINT COMMITTEE WITH ETHIOPIA--The Ethiopian party to the joint Yemeni-Ethiopia committee reached Aden yesterday noon under the chairmanship of Comrade Wili Shakul, member of the central committee of the Ethiopian workers' party and minister of foreign trade, to participate in the meetings of the sixth session of the committee, which will begin its activities today. During this session, a discussion will take place on the economic-scientific-technical cooperation protocol for the years 1987-90, the protocol on cooperation for the current year and the current protocol will be signed, and the level of execution of the plans of the committee's fifth session will be discussed. In a statement Comrade Wili Shakul made following his arrival to ADEN NEWS AGENCY, he stated that the visit was being made to develop and strengthen the relations that exist between the two friendly countries and to work to develop commercial, cultural and technical relations. He pointed out that during this session the committee's work of the next 5 years would be discussed in the economic, cultural and technical areas. Receiving him were Comrade Dr 'Abdallah Muhammad 'Uthman, minister of industry, trade and supply, a number of officials in the ministry and the Ministry of Communications, and Comrade Tisma Blay, Ethiopian ambassador in Aden. [Text] [Aden 14 UKTUBAR in Arabic 25 Jan 87 p 1] 11887

CSO: 4404/233

STATE, INDUSTRIAL BANK ENCOURAGES DOMESTIC INDUSTRIES

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 21-27 Jan 87 pp 30, 31

[Interview with Chairman 'Abbas al-Qurishi by AL-MAJALLAH; Sanaa, date not given]

[Text] Among the striking figures relating to the economy of the Yemen Arab Republic is the escalation in the volume of loans made by the Yemen Industrial Bank. This volume is considered to be a direct indicator of the intentions of the Yemeni government in support of industry. Hence, AL-MAJALLAH went to the chairman of the board of directors of the Yemen Industrial Bank, 'Abbas al-Qurishi, to talk about the growth of the loans and the conditions under which they are made.

[Question] What is the reason for the unusual rise in the volume of the loans made in 1983?

[Answer] We explained in our annual report for 1985 that the bank continued to support and assist the industrial sectors where it could make appreciable progress in expanding the volume of approved loans compared with previous years so that the total approved loans in 1985 was 49 percent higher than the total loans made in 1984 (76 million riyals in 1985 compared with 51 million riyals in 1984). This increase is due to a number of economic factors, perhaps the most important being the government's move toward the rationalization of imports for the purpose of limiting the import of luxury and consumer goods, which distort the balance of payments and constitute a burden that has cumulative adverse effects on the economy. This has encouraged domestic capital to move toward domestic industrialization, which is promoted and supported by the bank, in addition to investors turning to large and medium-size projects, resulting in increased investment costs. This move is a healthy response to the opportunities provided by economic growth. As for the distribution of the loans by sector, our accompanying annual report makes that clear by showing the sector, number of loans, amounts, and percent share of each sector. The following chart indicates the volume of loans approved by the bank from its establishment to the present day.

Year	Loans approved (in thousands of riyals)	Cumulative loans (in thousands of riyals)
1978	25,136	--
1979	25,130	50,266
1980	38,758	89,024
1981	30,505	119,529
1982	40,699	160,228
1983	48,901	209,129
1984	51,547	260,586
1985	76,251	336,837
1986	73,475	410,312

It is worth noting here that the bank cancelled some of the industrial loans totalling 67 million riyals with interest amounting to approximately 10 million riyals, leaving net loans of about 353 million riyals. This figure reflects the ability of the bank to utilize and develop its own and foreign financial resources very competently. The bank obtained two loans totaling \$20 million from the International Development Agency and a loan from the Kuwaiti Economic Development Fund. It is now trying to get a second loan from the Kuwaiti Fund to bolster its present resources so that it can continue the course of industrial development and support and encourage it to realize the goals and purposes for which it was founded.

Conditions of the Loans

[Question] What are the conditions of the loans?

[Answer] The bank law and its internal regulation laid down the general conditions for making loans, which can be summarized as follows. The bank is limited to projects in the extractive, finance, and service industries. The bank confines itself to financing the projects, specifically projects financed by individuals, private industrial corporations, and mixed public and private economic organizations. Bank financing is restricted to projects at least 51 percent financed by Yemeni citizens. The bank is also guided in its financing operations by the following considerations. Besides the technical and financial soundness of a proposed project, the bank must know the extent to which it can contribute to the development of the Yemeni economy. The bank also sees to it that the project enjoys a sound balance in its capital structure and that it possesses adequate collateral amounting to 120 percent of the loan. Moreover, the bank gives priority financing both to industrial projects that rely on local raw materials and follow a policy of replacing imports and to projects that use a long-term strategy of industrial geographic balance.

11 Percent Interest and Fees

[Question] What about the interest rate and time of repayment?

[Answer] The current interest rate is 10 percent plus a 1 percent service fee. The time of repayment is set in accordance with the nature and size of the project and the cash flow that it generates. In general, the bank specializes in offering long- and medium-term loans running from 3 to more than 10 years. It also provides a grace period (delay) covering the period between the start of a project and its commercial operation--between 1 and 3 years. It is determined on the basis of an economic feasibility study of each project separately. It is worth mentioning here that the bank has benefited from its earlier experience so that it follows a flexible policy in extending payment and grace periods to ensure that the industrial projects will be able to meet their obligations without obstacle, and do so in a climate that guarantees its growth and development.

[Question] What about last year?

[Answer] The activity of the bank in 1986 generally coincided with the government's taking decisive steps to implement a policy of rationalizing imports when it formulated a number of guidelines for drawing up a list of priorities for investment in the industrial sector. Nevertheless, we expect very soon that the volume of loans in 1986 will approximate that in 1985--75.5 million riyals distributed as follows:

Kind of industry	amount of loans (in million riyals)	percent
Paper	20.5	27.9
Lumber	18.3	24.9
Food	16.0	21.8
Construction		
materials	8.0	10.9
Chemical	4.0	5.4
Light engineering	3.4	4.6
Others	<u>3.3</u>	<u>4.5</u>
Total	73.5	100%

It is clear, therefore, that the most outstanding feature of our activity this year is its concentration on the paper industry, which obtained the largest number of loans. It is followed by the lumber industry. This is unusual in the bank's activity, indeed in the structure of the industrial sector in general. These two sectors are growing steadily and expanding toward large-scale production, despite the fact that they did not come into being until recently. Then come the traditional sectors whose share of bank loans has been steadily declining in recent years.

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GOVERNMENT WOOS PRIVATE BUSINESSMEN

Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Feb 87 p 28

[Article by Patrick Worsnip]

[Text]

KABUL — Marxist-ruled Afghanistan is wooing private Afghan businessmen to help in what it hopes will be an era of post-war reconstruction if its vaunted national reconciliation policy brings peace to the country.

Eight years of struggle between Soviet-backed Afghan forces and Muslim guerrillas have done substantial damage to the country's economy.

In particular, Western diplomats in Kabul say, there has been a sharp drop in agricultural output in this once almost self-sufficient country as up to five million refugees, most of them peasants, have fled abroad.

Although the food markets are still relatively well-stocked, there being fewer mouths to feed, problems will arise if new government proposals put an end to the war and the refugees return to their neglected lands.

Since the reconciliation drive was launched a month ago, the government has been busy discussing what it calls the further growth of mutually beneficial relations between the state and private entrepreneurs.

A Cabinet commission has been set up to supervise the policy aimed at boosting private investment and production of consumer goods.

Diplomats say one major aim will be promoting investment in more modern agriculture as it is unlikely the government will want to return to the subsistence farming of the past.

Government officials also acknowledge a political motive.

"This is a way of promoting the reconciliation process by giving more of a share to private people," veteran Commerce Minister Mohammad Khan Jalal said.

Reuters in an interview.

In fact government officials maintain that in nearly nine years of Marxist rule the state sector, already strong under the former rule of Mohammed Daoud, has not encroached much on the private sector.

Private individuals, they say, still control one-half of foreign trade, three-quarters of the retail trade and about 40 per cent of light industry.

Exactly what measures the government will take to encourage private business is still under discussion but entrepreneurs have been invited to get together and produce suggestions by the end of the Afghan year seven weeks hence.

In one possibly related move, the government last month authorized banks — all state-run — to buy and sell foreign currency against the local currency, the Afghani, at the market rate, which is about three times more favourable to the dollar than the official rate.

"The official rate will continue to be used in government budgetary calculations," Jalal said.

Diplomats reported some confusion about who was entitled to benefit from the new exchange rate but Jalal said one aim was to allow banks to finance foreign trade operations in the private sector.

If so this could put them into competition with the bazaar money changers who have always dealt at market rates and have already survived at least one attempt to close them down.

Western diplomats believe that the talk of stimulating private business seeks in part to entice back Afghan businessmen who have emigrated.

The return of a few notable figures could have an important psychological effect, they said. — Reuter

/13046

CSO: 4600/135

BOMBAY TELEVISION INTERVIEWS VENKATESWARAN IN NEW YORK

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 15 Jan 87 p 15

[Text] New York, January 14 (PTI). India will have to review its policy of using atomic energy only for peaceful purposes if Pakistan produces a nuclear weapon, the foreign secretary, Mr. A.P. Venkateswaran, has said.

If Pakistan, "encouraged by the silence of various countries, including the United States, does produce a nuclear weapon, then I am afraid our own restraint will have to be reviewed," he told Bombay Broadcasting Television network in an interview here.

He said, "Because we are a democracy we have to take into account the feelings of the people, Parliament and of public opinion. And we would not like to be forced into a situation where we have to review our policy of atomic research for peaceful purposes."

India's concerns on Pakistan's nuclear programme had increased mainly on the basis of information which has become available from American sources -- administration as well as the press, he told the network after his talks in Washington last week.

Answering a question on his recent visit to Pakistan, Mr. Venkateswaran said India hoped to see a decline in the number of terrorists infiltrating into Punjab as a result of the discussions held by him and by the home secretary, Mr. Somiah, with Pakistani officials.

Asked about reports that "hawks" in the U.S. defence department would scuttle the sale of American supercomputers to India, he replied that he had been told by "responsible people" in Washington that they have had an inter-agency meeting just a couple of days ago and that "the horizons seemed quite bright."

The hesitation on the part of the U.S. side was not "easily understandable to us," he said, adding that the hesitation showed that there was some kind of doubt that this technology would get passed on to other countries.

"But our record in this respect is impeccable. We have technology of equal sophistication, or almost equal sophistication, from a large number of countries. And at no point of time has any country felt that we have reneged on our commitments," he said.

The foreign secretary said that he would like to assure the U.S. administration and people that India would use the technology only for "our own development and not for passing on to others."

On the U.S. proposal to supply Pakistan with airborne early-warning systems, Mr. Venkateswaran said that the U.S. government had not yet decided what kind of system it would give to Islamabad.

"We hope no such system is supplied. But in a range of systems which are possible, I trust -- if the U.S. administration is determined to go ahead with it -- it will choose the system which will do least damage (to India)," he said.

The interviewer referred to the recent Chinese accusations against India following the granting of statehood to Arunachal Pradesh and asked if the "honeymoon" between Beijing and Washington had influenced the Chinese attitude towards India.

In reply, Mr. Venkateswaran expressed the hope that negative developments such as recent Chinese intrusion in Wangdung area are not caused by Chinese perceptions of U.S. support to them because "I am sure that is not the intention of the U.S. administration."

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CSO: 4600/1413

GOVERNMENT MAINTAINS U.S. MERCENARIES AIDING SRI LANKAN FORCES

Madras THE HINDU in English 14 Jan 87 p 1

[Text]

COLOMBO, Jan. 13.

India told Sri Lanka today that there was no question of the Foreign Secretary, Mr. A. P. Venkateswaran, withdrawing his reported statement in Washington that American mercenaries were assisting Sri Lankan security forces in their fight against the Tamil militants.

This was conveyed to the Sri Lankan Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Tyrone Fernando, by the Indian High Commissioner, Mr. J. N. Dixit, when he was summoned to the Foreign Office to receive an official statement by the Government of Sri Lanka condemning Mr. Venkateswaran's remarks. Mr. Dixit informed Mr. Fernando that the Foreign Secretary was articulating his Government's assessment based on the information available to it.

Mr. Dixit told the Minister that the insinuation in the Sri Lankan statement that the Foreign Secretary was working at loggerheads with the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, was just not realistic as the Government of India had a unified policy and all its functionaries worked under the strict disciplines on the policies laid out by the Prime Minister. The attempt to introduce an insidious element of difference between the Foreign Secretary and the Prime Minister was not going to work.

A Foreign Ministry release said the Sri Lankan High Commissioner in New Delhi had been advised to lodge a protest with the Indian Foreign Office regarding the matter.

U.S. denial: In Washington the State Department officials said that the U.S. had looked into the matter and "we believe there are no American mercenaries in Sri Lanka."

Mr. Venkateswaran had said in New York

that he had taken up with the State Department the reports that there were U.S. mercenaries in Sri Lanka.

State Department officials said, "Mr. Venkateswaran did ask us about these reports and we said we would look into that. We have looked into this and we have been able to uncover no evidence that there are U.S. mercenaries in Sri Lanka. We believe there are none. We told Mr. Venkateswaran that we wanted a peaceful settlement to the conflict and would discourage any such activities."

The Foreign Secretary told a meeting of "India Forum" in New York on Sunday that he had conveyed India's concern to the U.S. over the reported presence of American mercenaries in Sri Lanka.

Routine denials: The British High Commissioner in Colombo, Mr. John Steward has also said that as far as he is aware there is "absolutely no Briton helping the Sri Lankan forces, mercenaries or otherwise." But informed sources described these denials as "routine" and referred to press reports that the British mercenary group "Keeny Meany Services" was assisting the island's security forces.

The sources said the Americans may have been recruited by the "Keeny Meany" Services.

The American mercenaries might not be carrying genuine passports but false documents to conceal their identity, the sources said.

The sources also pointed out that Tamils in the North and East had repeatedly alleged having seen foreigners leading the security forces. Their presence had been reported during security operations at Thondamannaru in the Jaffna peninsula. —UNI & PTI

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CSO: 4600/1411

ANALYST NOTES U.S. CONCERN OVER PAKISTAN DEVELOPMENTS

Madras THE HINDU in English 17 Jan 87 p 9

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Jan. 16.

There has been a sudden flurry in American diplomatic activity in the sub-continent, either by coincidence or otherwise, with the U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Mr. Michael Armacost, the senior Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, Mr. Edward Djerejian, and the senior Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, Mr. Robert Puok, visiting India and Pakistan at the same time.

As number three in the State Department, Mr. Armacost is a senior functionary of the Government and he is arriving in Islamabad tomorrow for talks on Afghanistan and other issues relating to South Asia which would naturally include Indo-Pakistan relations.

After day-long discussions in Delhi, Mr. Djerejian is leaving for Islamabad tomorrow to assist Mr. Armacost, while Mr. Puok who arrived in Delhi from Beijing yesterday to join Mr. Djerejian is proceeding tomorrow to Sri Lanka which is part of his territorial division.

The U.S. is reported to be rather concerned about developments in Pakistan where its total identification with the Zia regime has been

generating a lot of anti-American sentiment. The U.S. is also worried that Pakistan might yield to the latest Soviet pressures to agree to a longer time-frame for the proposed withdrawal of Soviet troops as part of an overall settlement of the Afghan problem.

The talks in Delhi by the two Deputy Assistant Secretaries have indicated quite clearly that Washington is not indifferent to the adverse Indian reaction to the proposed sale of AWACS to Pakistan. The U.S. Government today went out of its way to deny both in Delhi and Washington an Indian news agency story that Pakistan had finalised with the Boeing company the details of the purchase of the AWACS with the tacit approval of the U.S. Government.

The Foreign Secretary, Mr. A. P. Venkateswaran, who had fairly extensive discussions on all aspects of Indo-American relations during his recent visit to Washington, had an hour-long talk today with the two Deputy Assistant Secretaries. The U.S. officials also met those in the Defence Ministry dealing with the AWACS issue presumably to stress the point that no final decision has been taken by the Reagan administration.

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CSO: 4600/1416

COMMENTATOR VIEWS SITUATION ON PRC, PAKISTAN BORDERS

BK051027 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 28 Jan 87 p 9

[H.K. Dua Commentary: "A Two-front Problem"]

[Text] Two recent developments along India's borders have aroused considerable interest in India's defense problems and its relation with its neighbors. While a few months ago China's decision to build a helipad and post an advance unit in the Sumdorong Chu Valley in Arunachal Pradesh highlighted the uncertainties that unsettled borders can always create. Last week India and Pakistan moved their troops into an eyeball-to-eyeball position and made many people ask whether the two countries were going to war.

A war with either China or Pakistan is nowhere in sight. But in both cases deep mutual distrust, a wide communication gap and possibly a desire to test the other side's capabilities have caused renewed tensions, some fresh acrimony and posed new challenges for both defense and foreign policy planners. The Foreign Office and the Defense Ministry are both located in South Block in close proximity to the prime minister's office, but it looks as the defense planners seem to be having a greater influence on the government's policy these days than those who delve in foreign policy. This is mainly because of the plea that protecting nation's territorial integrity is the primary responsibility of a government. China's decision to venture into the Sumdorong Chu Valley and Pakistan's mobilizing its assault forces across Abohar-Fazilka border and the Shakargarh bulge have indeed added weight to the warnings given by the military top brass against the worsening security environment around the country.

One cannot really object to the generals' concern for enhanced security. It is their job to protect the country and it is but natural that they will attach importance to acquisition of new military hardware by any of the neighbors, troop movement and development of infrastructure across the borders and all that they can see through their binoculars to fathom the motive of potential adversaries. What they say is bound to have a bearing on the nation's defense policy and understanding the general strategic environment in which it is to operate and possibly the foreign policy.

To be fair to the military top brass, it is not painting a picture they cannot confidently handle, but their unease at the overall strategic environment is certainly becoming more pronounced and has been made known to the prime minister directly during his tenure as the defense minister and to the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs which some months ago discussed the implications of the Chinese move in the Sumdorong Chu Valley and the situation at the Indo-Pakistan border arising out of the confrontationalist postures Indian and Pakistan forces took up last week. The political masters appear to be broadly in sympathy with the generals' reading of the situation.

The military top brass is apparently taking note of such recent phenomena as the heightened activity of the super powers in the Indian Ocean, the developments in Afghanistan including the talks between Pakistan and the Soviet Union, the tensions between China and Vietnam and their inability to resolve differences on Kampuchea, the Iran-Iraq conflict and lately, Sri Lanka's decision to let Israelis in and Pakistanis train its troops. But the focus of South Block's defense effort and thinking continue to be on Pakistan to a great extent and China to a lesser extent although there is reason to believe that the army chief, General K. Sundarji, is impressing upon the government that while India cannot be complacent about Pakistan, in the 1990s focus for defense effort will have to be borders with China.

India is bound to remain for quite some time stuck in a two-front situation, but last week's events on the Indo-Pakistan border underscore the fact that problems with Pakistan have not been left behind. India has indeed an overwhelming superiority of arms over Pakistan, but a sizable chunk of the forces have to be deployed against China with the result that deployable forces against Pakistan have to be kept within limits. No defense strategist can ignore the probability of Pakistan and China acting in concert in a future war. Neglect of defense on either of the two fronts can be risky.

India has an edge over Pakistan in military strength but its superiority in deployable arms over Pakistan may not be overwhelming for a decisive result. India has an army of as many as 34 divisions for defense against both Pakistan and China but only up to 18 divisions can be effectively deployed against Pakistan.

The 10-odd divisions placed on the border with China cannot be pulled out mainly because the Chinese can always indulge in some power games and keep our forces stuck in the mountains. Every country keeps some forces in a strategic reserve, but even here India has to take into account the needs of a two-front situation.

Over the years and particularly after 1971, Pakistan has considerably increased its armed strength. In 1971 Pakistan had 12 divisions. Now it has as many as 20 divisions out of which it keeps only four committed to its borders with Afghanistan and in Baluchistan. Besides the sophisticated equipment it has acquired to increase firepower and mobility, what has caused interest among Indian defense planners is the fact that the Pakistan Air Force has improved its capability considerably closing the gap with the Indian Air Force. In

1971, the ratio was one Pakistani aircraft to nearly 3.5 aircraft of IAF. Now the ratio has come down to 1:2.5 aircraft. Qualitatively, the Pakistan Air Force has equipped itself with 40 F-16 aircraft but India has also added Jaguars, Mirage 2000s, MiG 23s, MiG 25 and MiG 27 to its fleet with the certainty that the Soviet Union will also pass on MiG-29s.

A new element that is causing some concern is the near-possibility that Pakistan will acquire AWACS from the United States. New Delhi is hardly convinced by Washington's plea that AWACS sold to Pakistan or lent to it will be used only against Afghanistan. There is no such thing as a one-eyed AWACS which can snoop only on Afghanistan and cannot see on the Indian side. AWACS will help Pakistan to step up its capability to track low-flying aircraft in a radius of 470 km in India, jam India's electronic warfare capability and control air battles. Not that the Indians are in panic over the possible acquisition of AWACS by Pakistan, but qualitatively it makes a difference and adds extra strains on Indian resources.

Vis-a-vis China, the 1962 experience is far behind. The Chinese cannot come down the mountains with ease and occupy Indian territory without meeting stiff resistance. Nevertheless, complacency is dangerous particularly because China has improved its relations with the Soviet Union even as its strategic relations with Washington remain unimpaired. Indian defense planners are taking into account that China can sustain as many as 24 divisions deployable against India and after it has extended rail link well into Tibet it can sustain as many as 30 divisions.

China has an air force of nearly 5,000 aircraft against India's 750 aircraft; India has also to take into account the fact China has interrange ballistic missiles (IRBMs), medium range ballistic missiles (MRBMs) and intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs). Although China has a long border to defend against the Soviet Union, and that it continues to have problems with Vietnam, India cannot ignore the advantage Beijing has in its capacity to deploy a larger number of troops across Tibet borders.

Interesting are the infrastructural facilities the Chinese have developed in Tibet. These include an all-weather road system, an extending oil pipeline and several air bases in eastern, central and western Tibet. This is accompanied by massive construction of permanent accommodation for military personnel, strengthening of the existing defense fortifications along the Sino-Indian border like bunkers and underground storage facilities and improvement in communications.

At present China can employ nearly 100 helicopters in Tibet such as MI-8 and Allouettes. It has recently acquired A-109 Mark II helicopters from Italy and S-70 Black Hawks from the United States increasing its military options in Tibet.

Such a review of India's strategic environment and immediate defense problems is bound to lead to demands for higher defense outlay. It remains to be seen what Mr V.P. Singh, who till last week as the finance minister was understandably keen to keep military spending in check, will do now when he is bound to be influenced to some extent by what the generals say. Incidentally, the prime minister, who held the defense portfolio himself, is now working on the budget and it is not known whether his monetary problems will influence his defense perceptions.

There is a view among some influential members of the ruling party that the prime minister and those who make foreign policy need to look at India's policy towards some of the neighbors. The adherents of this view, although they are small in number, believe that it is worth looking for opportunities to resolve the boundary question with China--of course on terms consistent with India's honor. Whether a boundary settlement with China can be pulled off at this stage is not certain, but its votaries do feel that it can ease pressures along borders with China.

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CSO: 4600/1454

SOVIET VISITOR DISCUSSES SCIENCE COOPERATION PLANS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 14 Jan 87 p 3

[Text]

Areas like monsoon scintillation, monitoring of national resources, oceanology, bio-technology and space science were identified for Indo-Soviet joint cooperation in science and technological fields, said president of the USSR Academy of Sciences G I Marchuk.

Academician Marchuk was talking to a number of Indian academicians in the Capital on Tuesday. He said a team of experts were arriving on Wednesday to chalk out an action plan based on a comprehensive programme to be reached between the scientists of both the countries.

Among the most important joint ventures, the International Space Research Centre to be established in India would help in fundamental and applied research by the help of Satellites in the field of geology, geophysics and other allied fields, academician Marchuk said.

He said the joint programme would help in monitoring the national resources of both the countries including the variation of crops, forest wealth and humidity

or dryness of soil. The programme on oceanology would help in forecasting and regulating biological resources and ferrous compounds in oceans.

Paying glowing tributes to Indian scientists Dr Homi Bhabha, C V Raman, academician Marchuk said this Cooperation was possible because of the strong scientific base India could create by her efforts in the last decades.

Academician Marchuk said his country had advanced in mathematics, astronomy and theoretical physics, but lagged behind in the fields like biology. The country had made much progress in the field of immunology, Prof Marchuk said.

The Indo-Soviet joint cooperation in the field of science and technology would help in overall improvement of both the countries and Indian scientists would be able to use the newest equipments and the space and research centres of that country.

This was part of the decision taken by the leaders of the two countries during the visit of Soviet leader M S Gorbachev, academician Marchuk said.

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CSO: 4600/1412

ANALYST WRITES ON DANISH PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT

Madras THE HINDU in English 14 Jan 87 p 9

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Jan. 13.

The Danish Prime Minister, Mr. Poul Schluter, who is now on a week-long State visit, has fully identified his country, along with some other progressive nations in Western Europe, with the crusade India has been leading against apartheid in South Africa and for a better international economic order to make political freedom more meaningful for the people of the Third World which has suffered for so long from colonial exploitation.

During his two-hour long official talks today with the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, Mr. Schluter also extended his country's support to the objectives of the Africa Fund, while welcoming the forthcoming summit of its members in Delhi.

At the banquet hosted by Mr. Rajiv Gandhi in his honour tonight, Mr. Schluter spoke of the need for some sort of balance of power in Europe, but he shared India's concern at the growing nuclear arms race while stressing that the concept of nuclear deterrence was an out-dated doctrine. He fully agreed with the Indian view that unless the disastrous drift towards a nuclear confrontation was halted soon, there was every danger in mankind getting engulfed in a catastrophic conflict either by design or miscalculation.

Joint business council: Earlier, addressing a luncheon meeting organised by the Associated Chambers of Commerce, he welcomed the decision to set up a joint business council to promote greater trade, technology transfer and industrial cooperation between India and Denmark which were committed to orderly development for the welfare of their people. He said Denmark, which along with other Scandinavian countries like Sweden and Norway had already exceeded the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP set by the U.N. for developmental assistance, was in a position to help India in diverse fields such as advanced computer technology, manufacture of communications equipment, utilisation of non-conventional energy, construction

of shipyards and development of communications.

The Danish Prime Minister and his wife, Lisbeth, who arrived here for the official part of their visit after spending two days in Agra and other places, were accorded a warm welcome with full State honours and driven to Rashtrapati Bhavan in a motorcade along the ceremonial route.

Visiting Tranquebar: After a brief visit to Bhubaneswar to see a Danish-aided project and also visit some of the famous temples there, Mr. Schluter and his wife will be making a sentimental trip to Tamil Nadu to take a look at the old Danish settlement at Tranquebar on the Thanjavur coast. This trading outpost was set up by the sea-faring Danes as far back as 1620 on the basis of a treaty signed between the King of Denmark and the then ruler of Tanjore.

The Danes retained this trading port till 1845 when it was sold to Britain. The old fort, a church and some other structures are still there and the Archaeological Survey of India has established a small museum at Tranquebar, to preserve this old Danish connection. The Danish Government has offered to pay for the restoration of the old fort and other buildings to retain this historical link between the two peoples.

In the last 25 years, Denmark has given India economic assistance to the tune of nearly 2000 kroners which works out to an average of Rs.50 crores a year in the form of both grants and soft loans, making this country the second largest recipient of Danish assistance. It has been utilised mostly for rural development in the fields of agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

The Danish Premier, who has come to return Indira Gandhi's visit to his country in 1983, is exploring the possibilities of expanding his economic cooperation to industrial areas based on high technology which Denmark is now in a position to offer in many sophisticated spheres.

FINANCE MINISTER TRIES TO HOLD DOWN BUDGET DEFICIT

Madras THE HINDU in English 18 Jan 87 p 7

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Jan. 18.

The Finance Minister, Mr. V. P. Singh, is meeting individually the Secretaries of various Ministries and departments to see what could be done to curtail non-essential expenditure for keeping the budgetary deficit within manageable limits.

Though he has done remarkably well in stepping up revenue collections, the Finance Minister has not been able to check the spending spree of many Central Ministries that has been adding to the inflationary pressures.

He wants to impose cuts in non-Plan expenditure, while exercising stricter supervision over the utilisation of Plan allocations, besides mobilising additional resources to prevent increases in budgetary deficits. In the few weeks now left for the presentation of the 1987-88 Budget, he is determined to do all that is possible to check wasteful expenditure.

Big drain: But the big drain these days is on defence and internal security which the Finance Minister cannot afford to control, let alone curtail, in the prevailing political atmosphere. It is not possible to do anything on these two fronts unless the Prime Minister himself is prepared to enforce some constraints in both these spheres.

The published estimates of defence expenditure during 1987-88 are no indication of the amounts that are actually going to be spent, since the purchases of equipment from the Soviet Union are never included in the Budget. Nobody knows how much money is being

spent on internal security operations by both the Central and State Governments.

The Centre is obliged to resort to the stragem of deficit finance, which in simple language, means printing more paper money to cover at least a part of the budgetary deficits. The State Governments by and large continue to meet their financial commitment with the help of overdrafts.

Difficulties ahead: The Finance Minister has been cautioning the Cabinet that, in the absence of proper financial discipline at various levels of the Government, he was finding it increasingly difficult to control public expenditure. The Planning Commission, too, has been talking of the grave difficulties ahead if no timely steps are taken to control the situation.

The rupee stands devalued by almost 40 per cent in the last three or four years in terms of leading world currencies, while the internal price situation continues to get worse in the wake of frequent increases in administered prices as well as increases in railway freight, oil prices and even postal and telecommunication rates.

Tough task: One of the unhappiest men in the country today is the Finance Minister who also happens to be one of the most powerful men in the Government. As a man of ability and integrity, he seems to be doubly forlorn by his inability to control wasteful expenditure by the Government despite his impressive performance on the revenue front.

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CSO: 4600/1421

SPACE RESEARCH HEAD DISCUSSES SATELLITE PLANS

Madras THE HINDU in English 14 Jan 87 p 4

[Text]

MADRAS, Jan. 13.

The second generation INSAT-II satellites will have an innovative feature—"a search and rescue" payload in addition to its communication and meteorology segments.

Disclosing this in an interview to THE HINDU here today, Prof. U. R. Rao, Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation, said the ISRO was working on the technology development of the INSAT-II satellites. "In the second generation, we will have a search and rescue" payload. If something happens in terms of a shipwreck, boatwreck or when a ship gets into a distress, the first thing is to know where the problem is and have the rescue operation carried out. If you don't do the rescue operation in the first two hours, lives may be lost. Satellites can be used as means of knowing the disaster-site and transmit the information to the rescue-centre." The Indian Coast Guard was operating many rescue centres and there was one at Visakhapatnam, he pointed out.

The work on INSAT-II spacecraft was going apace at the ISRO Satellite Centre at Bangalore. The first flight of INSAT-II would have this "search and rescue" payload and it would be launched by a foreign rocket. The first test flight would take place in 1990.

(The satellites of INSAT-I series—INSAT 1A and 1B were fabricated by Ford Aerospace and Communication Corporation of the U.S. The Ford Aerospace had also been given the job of developing INSAT-1C).

ASLV launch: Prof. Rao said the launching of ASLV would take place from Sriharikota by the end of March this year. The ASLV launch campaign was now going on. The ASLV would orbit a 150-kg satellite called SROSS—Stretched Rohini Satellite Series.

Replying to a question, he said the problem

regarding the inertial guidance system on the ASLV flight had been solved. "Otherwise, we will not go ahead with the launch campaign." The inertial guidance system or the closed loop guidance system would steer the vehicle to its pre-determined path and help in achieving a higher injection accuracy of the satellite. The ISRO had also fired successfully the third and fourth stage motors of the ASLV by the end of the last month.

The first ASLV flight was to test primarily the rocket's performance. It would have a technological payload. It would also perform a scientific experiment—"to look at the gamma ray flux from stars."

The ISRO Chairman reviewed the ASLV flight schedule this morning with the Director of SHAR (Sriharikota) Centre, Mr. M. R. Kurup.

Space technology cell: Meanwhile, an ISRO press-release said that the ISRO Chairman inaugurated today the Space Technology Cell at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras. The Cell would help in providing a high quality research base in space technology areas for meeting the challenging needs of the future Indian space programme. The ISRO-IIT Space Technology Cell would concentrate on research and development activities in areas of launch vehicle technology, space communication techniques, the development of advanced chemicals and polymers for space applications etc.

The first joint Space Technology Cell was established at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, in June, 1982, to do research in rocket propellants, satellite technology, orbital mechanics and advanced computation techniques. The Cell at the IIT, Bombay, established in May, 1984, was engaged in R and D activities in remote-sensing technology and application areas.

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CSO: 4600/1410

MANY TOP CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO RETIRE

Madras THE HINDU in English 20 Jan 87 p 9

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Jan. 19.

The next instalment of secretary-level promotions, and postings—and transfers of some secretaries—are due to be announced since a few important vacancies have to be filled up soon.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, has to decide in the course of the next few days whether to give an extension to Dr. Raja Ramanna, who is due to retire by the end of this month from his dual capacity as Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary of the Atomic Energy Department.

The Science and Technology Ministry wants him to continue for some more time until those in the line of succession are able to assume this onerous responsibility and provide the kind of dynamic leadership required for forging ahead with India's atomic energy programme.

When an equally distinguished scientist, Dr. Satish Dhawan, retired as Chairman of the Space Commission and Secretary of the Department of Space, the Government requested him to serve for at least a year more as a special adviser with the rank of a secretary, so that he could continue to make his vast experience available without standing in the way of the promotion of Dr. U. R. Rao, an equally distinguished space scientist. He is now serving in an honorary capacity as a member of the Space Commission after relinquishing the post of special adviser, leaving Dr. Rao to run the department.

It remains to be seen whether the Prime Minister would urge Dr. Ramanna to accept a straight extension for a year or two, or request him to serve as a special adviser or member of the Atomic Energy Commission following the earlier precedent. But Dr. Ramanna himself has made it known that he would prefer to leave the Government following the normal procedure of promoting whoever is considered to be the right person to succeed him.

The two senior nuclear scientists who are equally eligible for promotion are Dr. P. K. Ayyangar, Director, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, and Dr. M. R. Sreenivasan, Chairman of the Nuclear Power Board. If Dr. Ramanna is not

persuaded to accept an extension, then either of these two will be chosen for the dual responsibility of Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary of the Department.

Piquant situation: The Government is faced with an equally piquant situation in finding a secretary with the requisite seniority to head the omnibus Human Resource Development Ministry. There are at present five secretaries in charge of the departments of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports, Culture, Arts and Women's Welfare.

As Cabinet rank Minister who is burdened with this vast Ministry, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao needs a senior secretary to coordinate the activities of all the departments under it. His task has been made all the more difficult by entrusting him with the additional charge of the Health and Family Welfare Ministry.

Key department: Meanwhile, the post of secretary in charge of the Department of Industrial Development in the Industry Ministry has fallen vacant following the death recently of Mr. S. D. Srivastava, a distinguished civilian. The process of finding a new secretary for this key department will entail some consequential changes in other Ministries dealing with economic administration.

But in the course of this year, all the heads of the police, security and intelligence agencies at the Centre will be retiring and the Government has to look around from now onwards for suitable successors.

The Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB), Mr. H. A. Barari, is due to retire at the end of April, while the Director of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), Mr. S. E. Joshi, will follow three months later. The Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation, Mr. M. Khare, will be retiring at the end of October.

The Director-General of Indo-Tibet Border Force (ITB), Mr. O. P. Bhutani, will be reaching the age of superannuation next month and the Director-General of the Central Industrial Security Force, Mr. D. M. Mishra, will be retiring at the end of November.

The present Director-General of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Mr. S. D. Pandey, and the Director-General of Border Security Force (BSF), Mr. M. C. Mishra, do not have a long time left for their retirement.

POLITICAL ALLIANCE OUTSIDE MRD SAID TO 'WORRY' PPP, JI

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 6 Feb 87 p 1

[Text]

KARACHI, Feb. 5: The move initiated by some political parties outside the MRD to form an alliance has apparently caused concern among the PPP and Jamaat-i-Islami, according to political circles here.

It is said that Jamaat is worried, because it feels that the proposed new alliance may emerge as a potent force to challenge the present set up at the centre.

According to Jamaat calculations, the present Government is trying to establish an Islamic system, which should not be disturbed. A few months back, it is reported the Jamaat members had walked out of a meeting of Opposition leaders in Karachi, because they did not want to be a party to a resolution demanding Zia-ul-Haq's removal.

On the other hand, PPP does not want any opposition alliance in which it does not have an upper hand. If a new alliance of Opposition is established either PPP will not join it, but if it decided to join, it will put forth its own conditions like veto power, which it enjoys in the MRD.

In all probability, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, Co-Chairperson, PPP, would like to remain out of any

alliance which has Jatoi's National Peoples Party in it.

She had displayed on more than one occasion that she cannot stand the presence of Mr. Jatoi even at social functions.

At a function at the residence of Indian Consul-General here recently, where both were invited, Ms. Bhutto came face to face with Mr. Jatoi and unwillingly had to say hello to him. But later, she admonished her secretary for not keeping her well-informed about the list of participants. Had she known earlier probably, she would not have attended the function.

Meanwhile, NPP Chairman Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi has said that the NPP believed in practical implementation of democracy in the country, instead of making mere verbal claims.

Jatoi said that the NPP will not be found wanting in sacrificing anything for the integrity of the country and rights of the people. He said that it was due to the sincere spirit of the workers that NPP has achieved popularity among the masses in such a short time.

The NPP chief said that Karachi has become a centre of anti-State elements

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CSO: 4600/144

PAKISTAN-BELGIUM TRADE COMMISSION PLANNED

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 3 Feb 87 Commerce Supplement p II

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 2: Pak-Belgium Sub-Commission on Trade will be set up shortly to examine the possibilities of increasing the volume of trade between the two countries.

This was decided at a high-level meeting between the visiting Belgium Minister for Foreign Trade and Communication, Mr. Mehran de Croo and Secretary, Commerce, Mr. Mukhtar Masood here this morning.

The meeting reviewed the present trade relationship and discussed measures for reducing trade imbalance existing between the two countries.

The Secretary, Commerce briefed the delegation about the possible sector of collaboration

and joint ventures between the two countries.

He told the delegation that Pakistan could export rice, textile goods, raw cotton, leather products and carpets to Belgium as Pakistan had good quality of these products.

The Belgium Minister offered to help Pakistan in food processing and storage and fish processing, etc, as Belgium has rich experience in these fields. He also disclosed that his country was ready to assist Pakistan in the energy sector to meet its energy needs.

Senior officials of the Ministry of Commerce were also present in the meeting.—APP

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CSO: 4600/138

PROPOSALS FOR JOINT VENTURES WITH IRAN, TURKEY INVITED

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 3 Feb 87 Commerce Supplement p III

[Text]

LAHORE, Feb. 2: The Ministry of Industries has issued a questionnaire for entrepreneurs interested in setting up joint ventures in co-operation with Iran and Turkey.

The Ministry has requested that priorities in respect of projects to be set up in Pakistan should be indicated within the following fields:

Steel based engineering goods industries such as downstream projects based on Pakistan Steel like large diameter pipes, cast iron foundry, coaltar fractionisation, etc.

Industries like high voltage switch gears, power-generating machines, electrical machinery etc., and major components of refrigerators and air conditioners and TV sets such as metal clad board, semi conductors, diodes, transistors, conductors, devices, fixed and variable resistors, capacitors, tuner and integrated circuits.

Agro-processing industries for export markets, like cotton textile, fructose, caramel, citrus oil, ground-nut butter, dehydrated vegetables, yeast, concentrates for soft drinks, processed food, herbal extracts, animal feeds, etc.

Agricultural input industries include pesticides, agricultural implements and equipment, pumps, etc.

Mineral processing like grinding aids, gypsum board, refractories, porcelain insulators, ceramics wares, float glass pre-fabricated building elements, ferrochrome, chrome pellets, coal carbonisation etc.

Energy related industry like solar energy appliances namely photovoltaic cells of appropriate size and assembling into model village electrification system and solar power irrigation water pumps, etc.

Industries based on highly sophisticated technology.—PPI.

/13046

CSO: 4600/138

ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMITTEE'S POWERS INCREASED

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 6 Feb 87 pp 1, 12

[Text]

The Federal Anti-Corruption Committee set up by the Prime Minister, Mr. Mohammad Khan Junejo, has been authorised to examine complaints received from members of public relating to corruption and malpractices committed by officials of the Federal Ministries, Divisions, Departments, Autonomous and Semi-Autonomous organisations and if necessary initiate proceedings through the Federal Investigation Agency or to ask for the services of investigating officers from this agency for particular inquiries.

The Prime Minister, attaching utmost importance to the fulfilment of the objectives of the Federal Anti-Corruption Committee has also desired that the Ministries/Divisions, Departments/autonomous and semi-autonomous organisations should fully co-operate with the Federal Anti-Corruption Committee in the discharge of its functions.

In a notification issued by the Pakistan Government, the Prime Minister declared the setting up of the Federal Anti-Corruption Committee comprising MNAs and Senators selected by the Prime Minister himself. The Chairman of the Committee nominated by the Prime Minister is Lt Gen (Retd) Malik Abdul Majeed.

The Additional Secretary,

Interior Division, would act as the Secretary of the Committee. The Committee apart from examining complaints of the public with regard to corrupt officials would keep on reviewing the progress of anti-corruption cases pending investigation with the FIA as and when required. The Committee can under the notification call for and examine the record of anti-corruption cases from the FIA at any stage of investigation and make such recommendations as

were considered appropriate in respect of such cases.

The Committee can also call for record of the Federal Ministries, Divisions, Departments and autonomous organisations working under their administrative control pertaining to corruption and malpractices by their officials.

The Committee would also identify the rules and procedures that give rise to delays and corruption in the disposal of Government business and to make recommendations for simplification of such rules and procedures.

It would report to the Prime Minister on specific instances of corruption examined or investigated by FIA.

The Committee would also report the names of Government officials who seemed to be living beyond their known means of income or those who had persistent reputation of being corrupt.

Further, the Committee might advise the Prime Minister to refer any complaint or case to the Prime Minister's Inspection Commission for inquiry if the nature of the complaint or case so warranted.

The Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Committee might, for any specific purpose or for general assistance, requisition the services of any person and such person might be co-opted as a Member. The Committee would be given Secretariat Assistance for which a new cell has been created in the Cabinet Division. This cell would be headed by an officer, not below the rank of a Joint Secretary, who would be provided with necessary complementary staff.

The failure of a civil servant to render assistance to the Committee in the discharge of its business would render himself liable to disciplinary action under the relevant rules if it was so decided.

Where the Committee was of the opinion that a prima facie case of corruption existed against an official, the Committee might

recommend to the Prime Minister to place such official under suspension pending final adjudication of the case.

The Chairman and Members of the Committee would be liable to be removed by the Prime Minister in his discretion.

Through another notification the names of the Federal Anti-Corruption Committee members were announced. They are: Lt.-Gen. (Retd.) Malik Abdul Majeed (Chairman), Maj.-Gen. (Retd.) Mohammad Bashir Khan, Brig. (Retd.) Mohammad Asghar, Mr. Ghulamuddin Marwat, Mr. Fateh Mohammad Khan, Mr. Gohar Ayub Khan, Mr. Saeed Khan Masood, Mr. Siddiq Ahmad Kanju, Mr. N.M. Khokhar, Mr. Shahabuddin Shah Hussaini, Mr. Ghulam Mohammad Chishti, Mr. Kanwar Qutubuddin, Mr. Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, Mian Abdul Rauf, Raja Nadir Pervez, Mian Mohammad Zaman, Rana Nazeer Ahmad, Jam Yousaf, Ms. Salma Ahmad (Members) and Mr. Dil Jan Khan, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Interior as Member/Secretary.

/9317

CSO: 4600/144

ASSEMBLY MOTION ON WALI KHAN DISMISSED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 4 Feb 87 pp 1, 8

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Feb 3: The adjournment motion against Wali Khan was talked out in a special session of the National Assembly here tonight. Moved by the Jamaat members the motion became an embarrassment for the movers and the ruling party members when the Opposition launched an all out attack against the so-called "champions of Islam and Pakistan".

The most hard-hitting and masterly delivered speech was that of Abdul Hamid Jatoi who not only took the movers to task but also made a frontal attack on Punjab and its role in the national politics. The seasoned politician from Dadu, Sind, started carefully with a technical point that a news item does not provide sufficient ground for an adjournment motion.

However, he became increasingly angry with interventions from the PML members and was too much for the inexperienced Syed Khan Mahsud to handle who was conducting the House in the absence of both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker.

Earlier, the Jamaat and Muslim League members had attacked a number of political leaders from the smaller provinces along with Wali Khan. G.M. Syed, Mumtaz Bhutto, Ataulah Mengal, Bizenjo and Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan were all described as enemies of Islam and Pakistan. Instead of being apologetic, the Sindhi parliamentarian praised them as true leaders of the people. "If they are traitors so are the people of these provinces," he declared.

"Why only one province has taken the responsibility for patriotism? If we have produced traitors, what have you produced? A claimant to prophet-hood that nobody recognises? When some Punjab MNAs objected to his reference to a man who, according to them, has been rejected by the majority of Punjabis, Mr Jatoi insisted: "You have produced him while we have done no such thing. "Still we are traitors, how strange!"

"Bengalis were declared traitors and now Sindhis, Baluch and Pakhtoons are being labelled as traitors. I have a feeling that like the Bengalis you also want to get rid of us after declaring that we were traitors"

Referring to a demand by Jamaat's Liaquat Baluch who had asked for an action against Wali Khan under Article 6 of the constitution, Mr Jatoi said "who has violated Article 6? Wali Khan or your army? If you want to hang Wali Khan for treason hang those as well who have violated the said article".

Article 6, he said, is not a Fatwa or religious decree which can only be used against the people of smaller provinces. Mr Jatoi said that the blood of Bengali Muslims was unjustly shed. "This blood is still calling for justice in the court of God. Now if you shed the blood of Sindhis, Baluch and Pathans all the five rivers of this country will become red with it". He observed that one can be loyal to one's country only if it protects one's rights.

At this point PML's Mian Asif rose to ask the Dadu MNA not to talk about provinces. "O.K", he said, "I will not talk about provinces. I will talk about four national-

ties that live in this country. These four nationalities are tied together only with the religion. Please don't weaken this bond by over-stretching it".

Mian Asif got up again to know which province had exploited whom. "Listen if you want to" shouted Mr Jatol. "The income of all the provinces are spent on the army. Our lands have been occupied. We have been reduced to the status of second grade citizens. All jobs are denied to us. We have tolerated a lot but we are not going to tolerate any more".

He was interrupted by Aslam Kacheela, an MNA from Sargodha: "We taught you how to plough. You don't join army because you are afraid of death".

"We are afraid, alright", replied Mr Jatol, "but not of death. We are afraid of opening fire at the House of the Lord. Afraid of killing our Muslim brothers in Kabul for non-Muslims".

Realising that the debate was going out of hand and the officiating Speaker was not willing to intervene Fakhar Imam and Zafar-ullah Jamali tried to put some sense into it. "We should not get into argument about who exploited whom. We have had unrepresentative governments in the country and since Punjabis are in majority in the army, smaller people will blame Punjab for their deprivation said the former Speaker.

Mr Jamali asked the members to confine themselves to the issue and not to get too touchy. Mr

Jatol, however, was no more willing to give up. He was obviously angered by continuous interruption by the Punjab MNAs and the applause that every interruptor received from the House. "The time is over when you stopped us by threatening to call us traitors. We want our rights."

"G.M. Syed was kept under detention for over 25 years. Wali and others also spent years in jail. I want to see how loyal most of you will remain after spending 25 years in jail".

Earlier, Zafar Ali Shah, the former federal minister from Sind, expressed more or less the same sentiments as Mr Jatol though less enthusiastically. Giving a brief background of the deprivation of smaller provinces the Shah said that the One Unit was created to counter the majority of East Pakistan. When the people of smaller provinces felt that they were being steam-rolled in the name of unity, they rose against One Unit. Their struggle for the restoration of their rights was interpreted as treason.

Mr Jogezai was presiding when the debate began. He asked Jamaat's Liaquat Baluch to speak first. Mr Baluch presented a long list of Wali Khan's misdeeds before the House. He accused him of working for Russians and Indians. Wali Khan, he alleged was sending young people to the Soviet Union

and other communist countries for training in subversive activities.

He also deplored Wali Khan's alleged role in the recent Karachi riots. He accused that the ANP leader had brought three truck-loads of weapons from Afghanistan when he recently returned from there. Liaquat Baluch also charged that Wali's pronouncement at Torkham on his return from Kabul amounted to treason.

Jamaat's Maulana Gauhar Rahman also repeated more or less the same allegations but he widened his target by also including G.M. Syed and others in his list of traitors. He quoted several passages from G.M. Syed's book to make his point.

Syeda Abida Humsain was among one of those few speakers who had a sobering effect on the debate. She divided Punjab into two regions; the southern Punjab and the border districts. She said that it was the people of border districts who were worried about treason and conspiracies while the people of southern Punjab were as deprived as the people of smaller provinces.

She appealed not to identify the government with the state and not to label the enemies of government as enemies of state.

Finally Mr Jogezai returned in time to stop this lengthy debate. He did not even allow the Interior Minister to wind it up and adjourned the House till Wednesday morning.

EDUCATION MINISTER TALKS ABOUT REFORMS, PLANS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 13 Feb 87 pp 1, 8

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 12: The Federal Minister for Education, Nasim Ahmed Aheer informed the Senate today that the quota system for giving admission in the government educational institutions has been done away with to allow admissions only on merit basis.

Responding a privilege motion sought to be moved by Maulana Kausar Niazi, the Education Minister said the quota fixed even for President, Prime Minister, governors and the ministers has ceased to exist in the government educational institutions, adding that the criteria for admissions will be strictly on merit.

He said the government wanted to extend equal educational opportunities to all the students, in an educational system where there was no discrimination between the poor and the rich.

The mover in his motion had raided the question of abolishing primary sections in the model schools in the Federal Capital.

He pointed out that by that way the children had been deprived of the right of admission to the next class of the same schools.

The Minister opposed the motion on factual grounds.

He explained some of the features of the policy recently adopted by the government with regard to the admissions in government institutions.

The Education Minister announced that the government was taking necessary measures to make available admission facilities to every child of the country in the government educational institutions without any discrimination.

He, however, said that the admissions in nursery class would be without merit.

Naseem Aheer further said it was not proper to practice double standard in education in an Islamic society.

He said the government considered its basic and moral duty to provide equal education opportunities to all sections of the society. He said the government wanted to make it sure that talented and deserving students should not be deprived of the educational facilities at primary as well as higher levels.

He said the primary classes in the model schools have been abolished in line with the government's policy to give admission in the model schools on the merit basis.

He said the admissions in class sixth in the model schools in Islamabad will be given purely on merit basis through an independent board.

He said he had already ordered for opening of ten new primary schools in Islamabad to meet the admissions problem in nursery schools.

He assured that steps were under way to solve admission problem in the government educational institutions.

Nasim Aheer further said that the government planned to open primary schools in each sector of Islamabad. He said the present policy was aimed at promoting the quality of education in the country.

Moving his motion, Maulana Kausar Niazi said the government was engaged in promoting educational facilities on one hand under the Prime Minister's Five-Point Programme, while on the other the residents of the Federal Capital

were facing grave problem of admission in the model schools where primary sections are being wound-up from the next academic year.

He referred to a Press statement of the Education Minister in this connection. He said the government should have streamlined the system of admission instead of closing down the existing educational institutions.

He demanded a review of the present education policy out the admission in the model schools in Islamabad.

The chairman Ghulam Ishaq Khan ruled the motion out of order on technical grounds.

Another privilege motion sought to be moved by Tariq Chaudhry, regarding preparation of new National Identity Cards, was also disallowed by the chair on technical grounds.

The mover in his motion had pointed out that the Interior Minister had given contradictory replies during the question hour on Jan. 6 and Feb. 9 last, about the government policy of replacing the present National Identity Cards.

Mohammad Aslam Khan Khat-tak opposed the motion and denied that he had given any contradictory statements on the subject.

He clarified that he had stated in his reply to the questions, that a proposal was under consideration to prepare new National Identity Cards and the government had not yet arrived at any decision in this regard.

Opposing an adjournment motion sought to be moved by Senator Abdur Rahim Mirdad Khel about an accident between a car and railway engine near Chakwal. The Minister of State for railways Nisar Mohammad Khan said that railway authorities had instituted departmental enquiry into the accident and as a result engine driver and Chowkidar were dismissed. Police has also registered a case against the accused which was in the court, since the case, he said is subjudice, it was not appropriate to discuss it in the House.

After the statement of the Minister, the mover did not press his motion. — APP=

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CSO: 4600/145

ASSEMBLY FORMS COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE EXISTING LAWS

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 3 Feb 87 p 7

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 1: The National Assembly today constituted a 27-member Special Committee on Law Reforms, under the chairmanship of Khawaja Mohammad Safdar, MNA to examine existing laws, and suggest necessary changes in public interest.

The committee, constituted unanimously on a motion moved by the Federal Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Mr. Wasim Sajjad, under Rule 205 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 1973, has also asked to suggest measures for enacting new legislation in the public interest.

Rana Tanveer Hussain shall be the Secretary Convener of the committee.

The committee will also favour and forward its recommendations to the Ministry of Justice and Parliamentary Affairs to enable the Ministry to examine and process the suggestions amendments for further appropriate action.

The National Assembly also continued general discussion on the Abandoned Properties Management (Amendment) Bill, 1986, as reported by the Standing Committee. Both the speakers, namely Mr. Liaquat Baluch (Lahore) and Maulana Gauhar Rehman, (Mardan), who took part in the discussion, opposed the Bill and called for its rehashing to provide for transfer of the abandoned properties left by the nationals of Bangladesh, to those who had been repatriated from that country.

Mr. Liaquat Baluch, in his speech, drew the attention of the House towards what he called plunder of these properties in the past. The need of the hour was that a comprehensive Bill was brought before the National Assembly, which benefited the repatriates rather than the influential individuals.

Mr. Liaquat Baluch demanded that a thorough probe should be held into the illegal occupation of

the six residential plots left behind by the residents of former East Pakistan. Bitterly criticising the provision of the Bill relating to the grant of powers to the administrators to dispose of these properties, Mr. Liaquat Baluch said that it was fraught with opening new avenues of corruption. Law must protect the nation's exchequer and the public rights, he declared.

Maulana Gauhar Rehman explained the position of the abandoned properties in the light of Islamic jurisprudence and asserted that the Government could be justified in enacting any law to regulate these properties if it had entered into any agreement with the Bangladesh Government. He, however, said that these properties should be reserved for the repatriates from Bangladesh. He therefore, suggested that the bill should be reconsidered by the Government.

The House will meet again on Tuesday (tomorrow) at 10 in the morning.—APP.

/9317

CSO: 4600/143

JATOI COMMENTS ON SHARIAT BILL, FORESEES 'CIVIL WAR'

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 13 Feb 87 p 8

[Text]

HYDERABAD, Feb. 12: Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi foresees a civil war in case the controversial Shariat Bill is adopted by the present assemblies which according to him were unconstitutional and did not represent the aspirations of the people.

Mr. Jatoi made these observations, while replying to a question during a news conference he held here today. Rejecting the Bill in its totality, the Chairman of the National People's Party opined that instead of opening another 'Pandora's Box' the enforcement of the Bill could be well effected through a consensus among the recognised religious leaders of all sects.

He said the Bill was not acceptable to the people belonging to the different 'Fiqhs' therefore it was imperative to take all of them into confidence before embarking upon another adventure which may prove disastrous.

To another query he replied that the move for an 'All Parties Moot' had the full backing of his

Party. When informed that the leader of the JUP Maulana Noorani was against the inclusion of the Jamaat-e-Islami in the proposed conference because of its role, Mr. Jatoi said he would personally request the Maulana to reconsider his stance and try to accommodate the J.I also. He said he was prepared to sit with the PPP if the proposal materialises.

Mr. Jatoi agreed that the present distribution of the national divisible pool was not satisfactory for Sind. He claimed that he had worked out a formula in this regard which would satisfy the needs of the smaller provinces but its details would be made public at an appropriate time.

On the disputed quota system in Sind he opined that the mohajirs living in Sind should jointly demand the share of jobs along with the Sindhis. Once the province got its due share in government employment there would be no need for the prevalent quota system.

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CSO: 4600/145

COMMENTARY VIEWS DEBATE ON SHARIAT BILLS

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 29 Jan 87 pp 7, 8

["Between the Lines" column by Linesman: "The Debate"]

[Text]

THE DEBATE on the Ninth Amendment Bill and the Private Member's Shariat Bill seems to have subsided, but the issue has certainly not been buried and will sooner or later invite Parliament's attention and demand a Yes or No decision.

The Junejo Government continues to dither. It would probably like the problem to go away somehow or be able to persuade supporters of the twin Bills to defer the matter for the best part of the Prime Minister's promised term. Such escape is, however, not at all likely. Not only is the small minority interested in pushing both Bills through active and voluble, but the group enjoys the support of the architect of the system they want to destroy. And democracy these gentlemen abhor because they can never achieve power through the ballot.

President's preference

President Ziaul Haq has made no secret of his unchanging preference for what he likes to describe as an Islamic set-up. As he sees it, this would give the country a more or less permanent President, with nominated advisory bodies at various levels to assist him, and, as an additional safeguard, with the armed forces exercising a veto over Government policies. All this is sought to be made palatable in the name of religion and ideology; to these are added the imperatives of stability and national security, as if past

experience had not proved that authoritarian rule is the biggest destroyer of stability, and that the weakness of democracy or its absence have always done Pakistan the greatest harm, not excluding the break-away of its largest province. The recent Senate debate on a Privilege Motion seeking to censure the President for his anti-democratic remarks shows that the threat of recidivism remains alive. It is of interest to note that the Motion was ruled out on technical grounds, but no Member sought to defend the President against the charge that he was opposed to democracy.

The aim of the Ninth Amendment Bill as well as the badly-drafted Shariat Bill is to make the Quran and the Sunnah the supreme law of the land, not by codification of Islamic injunctions through parliamentary legislation but by giving extensive powers to the Shariat Court and the Islamic Ideology Council. These bodies are selected by the President in his personal capacity and their members will hold office at his pleasure. They will decide which laws conform to the Shariat and which tend to violate Islamic principles. Laws that, in the opinion of these Presidential appointees — and against the Court's verdict there will be no appeal —, do not conform to the Quran or the Sunnah will be struck down and replaced by other laws that can be given the stamp of approval by the Council and are adjudged favourably by the Court.

These nominated bodies will, in effect, become law-making institutions, and they will be empowered to override the views and acts of the sovereign parliament. The legislature will then be reduced to the position of a mere rubber-stamp.

This is the main reason for rejection of these proposals by those interested in saving Pakistan from sinking into another period of dictatorship, which they believe can only hasten its decline. There are, of course, other reasons. For one, Pakistan is pledged — on the strength of the solemn promises made by its Founding Father — to guarantee equal rights to all its citizens, irrespective of caste, creed, sex or colour. How can this be done through law-making by courts that will be manned by individuals who seem determined to put Pakistan into reverse gear in certain essential fields? Then, it is well known that the Muslim community is divided into a large number of sects, each faithful to its own fiqh. The system now sought to be introduced is wholly unacceptable to most minority sects and the biggest among them — the Shias — have already launched an agitation demanding guarantees that they will not be governed by any rules except those that are acceptable to them and are in accord with their own interpretation of the Quran and the Sunnah. Here, the seeds of further sectarian conflict are being planted with a devotion worthy of a better cause. It needs no special argument to show that such divisive moves can only lead to disruption and possible disintegration that will further weaken national unity.

Honest answers

The honest answer to Pakistan's problems lies in honestly following the path indicated by the Quaid and the Allama. Pakistan's rulers never tire of taking these two names in a bid to gain kudos or muster public support, but proper attention is rarely given to what the two great men had sought to make of Pakistan. Let everyone be reminded that Muhammad Ali Jinnah stood for undiluted democracy where the

people's political will would be reflected in the country's policies, and there would be no checks of any sort on the State's democratic functioning. Not only the Quaid-e-Azam's famous speech of August 11, 1947, but a whole life-time of devotion to democratic principles offers irrefutable evidence that his concept of Pakistan bears no resemblance to what his successors have sought to make of it. In his political lexicon there was no such thing as democracy controlled, rationed or even Islamicised. It is equally important to recall that the Quaid, for excellent reasons, was opposed to any policy or action that would work towards splitting the Muslims into sects, and that he loathed nothing more than hair-splitting disputes over doctrinal niceties.

As for Iqbal, his genuine love for Islam took him through deep study and research to the Reconstruction of Islamic Thought — and a total intolerance of its stagnation and petrification. Allama Iqbal believed that modern Muslim States should set themselves up as republics, with sovereignty exercised by the people's elected representatives, and the parliament thus chosen was the best repository of the right to Ijtihad. Thus, it would guide the evolution of Islamic polity and other laws, in accordance with the changed circumstances and the advances made by humankind in technology and knowledge.

These factors must be understood by all citizens and particularly by those who have accepted the role of members of parliament, almost believing that they are acting on behalf of their constituents and in the national interest. If they are genuinely convinced of this status, they must decide to cast aside the new-fangled laws being introduced in the name of Islam, because they will make a mockery of democracy and place Pakistan's future in the control of a handful of persons nominated by the President.

INCREASE IN SUGAR PRODUCTION REPORTED

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 3 Feb 87 Commerce Supplement p II

[Text]

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

JHANG, Feb. 2: Mr. Altaf M. Saleem, Chairman, Pakistan Sugar Mills Association, and Chief Executive of local Shakarganj Mills, has said that sugar production in the country during the current season upto 15 January figures is higher by 3.19 per cent as compared with the last season. Over 646,000 metric tons of sugar had so far been produced at an average recovery rate of 8.12 per cent from 80.18 million metric tons. of sugarcane, whereas during the last campaign, total sugar production upto 15 January was 626,000 metric tons.

While talking to the newsmen he stated that the PSMA has released its third estimate of sugar production for 1986-87 and after reviewing sugar production in all the three sugar producing provinces, second estimate of 1.25 million metric tons has been maintained. The production for 1986-87 is estimated at 750,000 metric tons in Sind, 475,000 metric tons, in Punjab and 25,000 metric tons in NWFP including beet sugar. Giving further details the Chairman PSMA told that upto January 15, 1987, 365,000 metric tons of sugar was produced in Sind

by 16 Sugar Mills from 44 million metric tons of sugarcane at an average recovery of 8.41 per cent. In the corresponding period last year sugar production in Sind was 338,000 metric tons. Sugar production of 20 sugar factories in Punjab was 270,000 metric tons upto 15th of Jan. at an average recovery rate of 7.93 per cent and sugarcane crushed during the said period was 34.69 million metric tons. In the corresponding period of last year, sugar production in Punjab was 263,000 metric tons. The PSMA Chairman said that sugar production position in NWFP is very discouraging and major sugar producing factories were closed on Dec. 16, 1986, due to non-availability of sugarcane. So the sugar production in the province was less than half of the previous years production. Five sugar factories in the province could produce only 11,628 metric tons of sugar at an average recovery of 8.02 per cent from 147,874 metric tons of sugarcane as against the corresponding period of last year, sugar production was 24,844 metric tons. The Chairman further told that PSMA will however release its final production estimate in March, 1987.

/13046

CSO: 4600/138

MINISTER TALKS ABOUT SIND ARMS LICENSES

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 6 Feb 87 p 1

[Excerpt]

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 5: The Minister for Interior, Mr. Muhammad Aslam Khan Khattak, categorically stated in the House that the Federal Government not issued any instructions to the Sind Government for cancellation of the arms licences issued by the Federal Government.

He was replying to a volley of supplementaries raised on a question asked by Mian Muhammad Zaman. The Minister further said that he had asked the Sind Government to furnish facts and figures in this regard on the report of some MNAs belonging to Sind Province.

He had no information that how many arms licences issued by Federal Government were cancelled by the Sind Government, Mr. Khattak added.

However, the Minister observed that the Sind Government might have resorted to do so in some areas keeping in view the situation as a preventive measures. The Minister told the House he believed that the crimes were committed through unlicensed arms and the Government, he added was in search of such arms.

On a supplementary by Mr. Muzafar Hashmi whether the Prime Minister with his signature had issued some licences to the members of ruling party, belonging Sind Province the Minister said that he had no such information and asked for fresh notice to answer it.

/9317

CSO: 4600/144

REPORT ON TAXATION DISCUSSES TAX EVASION, BLACK MONEY

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 13 Feb 87 pp 1, 8

[Article by Aslam Sheikh]

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 12: The National Taxation Reform Commission has estimated that the cumulative amount of black money in the economy may be over Rs. 180 billion (Rs. 18,000 crore).

The Commission's 233-page Report available here today has also computed evaded tax during 1984-85 at Rs. 18,528 million, constituting more than 11% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and more than 15% of non-agricultural GDP.

Three of its sixteen chapters deal extensively with issues like tax evasion, black money and smuggling and the one dealing with the controversial issue of taxation on agricultural incomes embodies the divergent views of the members.

Those favouring extension of income tax to agricultural incomes have alleged that a large number of corrupt government/semi government employees have either purchased agricultural land or obtained fictitious leases and are declaring 'graft' money as agricultural income. Lately, the drug dealers have also started making use of this loophole and are laundering 'drug' money by buying agricultural wastelands.

Similarly, the exclusion of agricultural income from income tax enables those agriculturists who would otherwise be liable to wealth tax to evade tax on their non-agricultural assets like jewellery, cash, cars, and jeeps as the existing law exempts such persons from payment of wealth tax.

While estimating the total black money in the economy, the Commission bases its finding on the following:

1) Most of the 'long-term deposits' in the scheduled banks represent black money. Even if 50% of time deposits and 25% demand deposits are treated as black money, the amount from this source alone comes to over Rs. 50 billion.

2) The Commission estimates that of the total notes in circulation a minimum of over Rs. 10 billion represent hoarded currency notes.

3) Gold, diamonds and other precious metals have absorbed at least Rs. 10 billion worth of black money over the past 38 years.

4) Over Rs. 50 billion black money is represented by 'black capital' used in business in the form of undeclared stocks/stores capital investment, undeclared receivables and fictitious payables (loans).

5) By far the largest absorber of black money is real estate. At a conservative estimate the investment of black money in this sector is in no case less than Rs. 50 billion.

6) The deposits and assets of Pakistani nationals abroad - representing most of the 'drug money, major part of graft money and foreign commission money - are estimated to be of the value of Rs. 10 billion.

7) Last but not least, a major repository of black money are household effects, including cars. Interior decorators say that affluent people spend half as much money on interior decoration as

they spend on construction. Considering the volume of imported cars, electrical appliances and electronic equipment and locally made luxury furniture, etc, even conservative estimates put the figure of black money utilised on these items at hundreds of crores.

In another annexure to the Report, the Commission estimates that tax evaded for the year 1984-85 on the untaxed income of Rs. 50,762 million works out at Rs. 18,528 million.

The total incomes liable to income tax out of the total non-agricultural GDP is estimated at Rs. 70,062 million. As against this figure, the income actually taxed for the relevant year 1984-85 stands at Rs. 19,300 million. The untaxed income thus comes to Rs. 50,762 million, constituting 11.9% of the GDP and 15.7% of the non-agricultural GDP.

The Commission observes that a comparison of the extent of black money in Pakistan with the extent of black money in India may also be revealing. Studies undertaken in India to quantify the extent of black income give varied estimates but

with the unanimous conclusion that tax evasion is rampant there. The estimates yield figures which range from 3.6% of the GNP to as high as 13% and from Rs. 172,090 million of tax evaded income to Rs. 468,660 million of black economy generated in a year.

While noting that tax evasion in Pakistan is as old as the tax laws, the Commission observes "...but after independence, the problem has intensified and has now reached crisis proportions. So widespread is the malaise that the rule now is evasion and compliance of tax laws an exception".

The Commission regrets that it is not realised even at the highest levels that successful tax evasion has very wide and destructive repercussions on all strata of society. "In effect, it means that the tax evader actually cheats other tax-payers and not merely an abstract entity known as the government because as a result of this action members of the community, other than the evader, are made to pay more than their fair share of taxes and this eventually generates dissatisfaction with the system".

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CSO: 4600/145

KALABAGH DESIGN SAID BEING REVIEWED

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 3 Feb 87 p 7

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 1: Kazi Abdul Majid Abid, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, today informed the National Assembly that the design of Kalabagh Dam project had been reviewed and was under the consideration of the Cabinet Committee on Major Dams (CCMD).

He was replying to a question asked by Raja Mohammad Afsar Khan during the Question Hour. The Minister further explained that the CCMD was likely to discuss the proposal of redesigning the dam in its meeting to be held by the mid of the current month.

Further action will be taken in accordance with the decision of the CCMD, he added.

The Information Minister told another questioner that 30 SCARPS had been completed at a cost of Rs. 5095 million completed so far which provided protection to a gross area of 8.542 million acres.

In reply to a number of supplementaries raised by Mr. Hamza, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, Maulana Goher Rehman, Haji Fazl-i-Razaq, and Malik Abdul Rauf, the Information Minister said that every member of National Assembly was allowed to

recommend one village per year for electrification under the general policy announced by the Prime Minister.

He assured the House that no discrimination was meted out while electrifying the villages on the recommendations of the elected representatives. The government was not pursuing any double policy in this regard as a village was electrified on the recommendation of the member from Khanewal. Syed Fakhar Imam who is not in the ruling party.

The Minister further informed the House that the Federal Government and the provincial governments kept on reviewing the steps so far adopted to foster harmony among various sects. At the Federal level, for instance, he said, the government had appointed a high-level National Cohesion Committee which apart from the Cabinet Ministers included eminent leaders of various Fiqahs. The members of the Committee continue to use their good offices wherever necessary to iron out differences between the various Fiqahs and to promote harmony among their followers, the Minister added.

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CSO: 4600/143

CHASHMA CANAL COSTS, LOSSES QUESTIONED

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 3 Feb 87 p 7

[Excerpt]

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 1: Several Members of the National Assembly today pressed through adjournment motions for discussing the reported loss of several crores of rupees due to defective construction of Chashma Right Bank Canal, on the plea that the matter was of urgent public importance and should be taken up by the House immediately.

The movers, Malik Said Khan Masood, Maulana Gohar Rehman, Sheikh Rashid Ahmad, Mr. Liaquat Baluch, Malik Abdur Rauf, Sheikh Mohammad Rashid, Haji Yunis Elahi Sethi, Ch. Shafaat Ahmad Khan and Rae Ahmad Nawaz, through their identical adjournment motions said that experimental release of water in the canal in D.I. Khan Division had totally failed as was evident from the Press reports.

They said the portion of the canal which had been built by the MCP had successfully gone through the test, but the rest of the

canal constructed by other firms was found defective, as the water soon after its release started leaking from the canal at abnormal rate destroying crops and other property of the people of the area and causing huge loss to the nation.

Speaking in support of the admissibility of their adjournment motions the movers said that these fulfilled all the relevant rules governing the procedure and should be admitted at once for discussion.

They said the construction of the canal had been undertaken under a phased programme to provide irrigation water facilities to the backward areas of NWFP. The first phase of the project on which over Rs. 80 crore had been spent had totally failed for which WAPDA and other concerned officials and organisations were responsi-

ble, which must be asked to account for their dismal failure to successfully complete a project of that magnitude and of considerable national importance. If this was not done an unfortunate situation would arise again, they said.

The project they contended had direct bearing on the national economy and on country's prestige. In view of failure of the project, the Asian Development Bank had refused to provide more credit for its completion. This was a great set back to country's economy and its honour, they argued.

They said the matter was of specific nature, related to one single matter and was of urgent public importance, because the defective construction of project had caused wide-spread resentment among the people throughout the country. The adjournment motions should be admitted and discussed by the House by suspending other business, they pleaded.

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CSO: 4600/143

EDUCATED TRIBALS SAID AGAINST TIRAH ROAD

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 4 Feb 87 p 8

[Article by Tariq Butt]

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 3: A group of educated tribals which opposes construction of the controversial Tirah Road, is here trying hard for an audience with Prime Minister Junjo to explain how the threatened bloodbath could be averted in the tense Khyber Agency.

The group has already had meetings with several Parliament members including Abdul Hamid Jaroi, Wazir Ahmad Jogezai, Salim Khan, Gohar Rehman, Samiul Haq and others to elaborate the bloody consequences if the construction of the road was not immediately stopped.

They told reporters here on Tuesday that they had made it clear to the parliamentarians that the tribals would not tolerate violation of their traditions and the promises made by the government to them from time to time.

The group headed by Momin Afridi and representing the 'Educated Tribals Organisation', said that the MNAs and Senators had assured them their cooperation and promised to convey their demands to the right official quarters.

He explained to a reporter that the major grievance of the tribals opposing the construction of the road was that the government had not taken them into confidence before launching the project, though an agreement between the two provided that mutual consent was a prerequisite in case of such a project.

The group urged the authorities to suspend the construction of the Tirah Road temporarily and call

a grand 'jirga' for a consensus. They dubbed those siding with the government as a 'bunch of paid people' who had no say among the masses.

To a question, they said a "jirga" recently addressed by the Prime Minister in Peshawar comprised 'hand picked' persons from the tribal areas who were selected by the Political Agents.

They warned that if the government persisted in constructing the road 'forcibly', a major bloodbath would follow, involving a number of persons of the resistance groups and the security forces.

The group refuted the official charge that the opponents of the road were agents of the Soviet union and Afghanistan. They said the tribals were loyal to Pakistan and wanted its prosperity and progress like other citizens.

The Tirah Road, when completed, will make through uneven and rugged areas of the tribal belt. The project even before its start has created fissures among the tribal elders. Several persons have so far lost their lives while opposing or favouring it.

The government is bent upon the construction of the road while its opponents are equally determined to resist it. The tense situation is a clear indicator that a gory feud is in the offing.

The educated group emphasised today that the provincial bigwigs, including the Governor and Chief Minister, had expressed their helplessness in healing the grave rifts among the tribals and prevent aggravation of the situation.

PRIVATE SECTOR SAID LIKELY TO BUILD HIGHWAY

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 13 Feb 87 p 1

[Article by Tariq Butt]

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 12: In a major policy move, the Government is understood to have decided to involve the private sector in the construction of the nation's largest super national highway running from one end of the country to the other.

The Minister Incharge for Communications, Nasim Aheer, is believed to have taken the decision a couple of days ago which now needs the approval of Prime Minister Junejo.

A well placed source told "The Muslim" on Thursday that building of the highway would impose no financial burden on the national exchequer. The authorities would prepare the plan for the construction of the highway, which would be implemented by the private companies.

The source explained that the investors would get back their

money from the proceeds of the toll tax (amounting to near Rs. 50) which every vehicle using the entire length of the highway would have to pay. Accordingly, the cost of the project would be reimbursed to the construction contractors over a period of time.

He said every vehicle plying on the new road would save Rs. 300 on fuel between Karachi and Peshawar. Hence, the drivers would not be loath to pay the toll tax, which would be collected at various suitable points on the highway.

It is widely acknowledged that the present highway is in a shambles and is too small to accommodate the heavy flow of traffic.

The much trumpeted launching of construction work on the super national highway has been in the doldrums for the past many years. The present decision represents a new bold approach in this regard, it is said.

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CSO: 4600/145

COMMENTARY VIEWS MOOD, CULTURE IN KARACHI

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 13 Feb 87 p 4

[Article by Sultan Ahmed]

[Text]

A visitor from Lebanon was told rather light heartedly at a wedding party recently that he should feel at home here as Karachi was becoming another Beirut.

"Oh no," he protested. "In Beirut there is life and death, but here you seem to have more of death and injuries, and anguish, and hardly any life, unless, of course, you call these very large wedding parties I have been to as life. In Beirut they seem to have some purpose, some scheme in doing what they want to do, however deplorable they are, but there it all seems chaotic. Nobody seems to know who really is going around killing, and why, and who is behind that, if some people really are," he said.

At the other end, an anthropologist was protesting the other day that there was so much talk about the tribalisation of life in Karachi. "That is wrong. Tribal life up north is based on equal measure of retribution, one for one. But here you can get away with almost anything. Murders, dacoities and other offences, most of the time go unpunished and the culprits untraced. Yours is a jungle, not a 'tribe area with its rigid code'," he stressed.

Both are right to an extent. The government is not able to control the killing, wild shootings, looting, and various other crimes, including the maniacs behind the wheels who kill several persons on the city roads each day, and get away with impunity most of the time, while others suffer in the rioting that follows more often these days. The officials helplessness is too palpable.

But the government is coming down too heavily on the cultural activities for the last two months. Shortly after the last round of massive killings at Orangi, Aligarh Colony and Qasbah began the new year celebrations at the major hotels of the city. All cultural centres and hotels were then told that they should not have shows of any kind until January 15. And without the official directives many wedding parties were postponed. And now the cultural centres and associations and hotels have been told the ban on shows and cultural performances will last until further orders.

There is no ban on functions where only speeches are made by officials or non-officials. Art shows are not forbidden either as long as they are quiet shows. Commercial presentations like the Leather show too, are permitted. But the ban is very effective when it comes to any kind of musical or dance shows, even dramas. As a result fund raising efforts for major charities are suffering, and associations in dire need of funds to keep going in their modest scale are in trouble.

A German symphony orchestra came to the city early this year. It took a lot of convincing of the government to let those finer musicians perform at the Rio Cinema. The Goethe Institute took great pains to persuade the government to realise that the common crowd or mischief-makers do not come to symphony concerts of the very classical kind, and no Jamaat-i-Islami group is likely to bust the show. Ultimately the show was permitted on the basis that it would not be publicised.

and the performance would be held without any fanfare or lights outside the hall.

The Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre, which is always in dire need of money, had the classical dancer Ansdawalli from Sri Lanka visiting Karachi to help raise funds for it, as she had done twice in the earlier years. It took a lot of work on the part of the organisers of the show to obtain government approval for her two shows. Approval finally came on the explicit understanding that there would be no advance publicity so that it would not draw any public attention.

The British Council was bringing the play 'Hobson's Choice' by Octagon Theatre to the city with the Pakistan-Burma Shell co-sponsoring it. But the Karachi authorities refused permission for public shows.

But the greatest shock of Karachiites was cancellation of the visit of the celebrated Shahnai Virtuoso Bismillah Khan, to Karachi. The 85 years old incomparable master was making his last foreign trip, beginning with Islamabad where he performed during the Indian Republic Day function. But he was refused permission to visit Karachi or perform here.

Bismillah was here some 20 years ago or more and his performance was seen by a small number of people. So Indian Consul General Aftab Seth was booking a very large hall to accommodate the largest number of people for Bismillah's last performance abroad or in Pakistan. They were disappointed when he was refused a visa to Karachi.

Some said the ban on the 85-year old maestro visit to Karachi could be the outcome of the military tension between the neighbours. How could that be? If the Pakistan cricket team could visit India and play there despite that tension the celebrated Bismillah, who might not come again unless the government makes handsome amendments for that, could certainly perform before a people who are greatly proud of that towering Muslim musician.

The ban on Bismillah's visit appears to be the outcome of more of a bureaucratic wooden headness or contempt for the arts. What a pity that we Muslim in Pakistan could not see an incomparable Muslim artist even at 85 without any valid reason!

Those who want to hold a show, despite the official ban, to raise funds for some good charity have to seek the protection of a diplomatic mission with large premises, as the SOS children village did recently to collect in all Rs. 6 lakh.

How long will this ban on culture last? Nobody knows. If the administration cannot prevent death, must it prevent life, must it check art, muzzle culture and make laughter seem a crime? If that is how it is going to be, life will become too tedious and devious in Karachi. Does the government really want that? And how is it really going to gain through this negative stance or the wrong approach - forbidding the right thing if it cannot forbid the wrong?

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CSO: 4600/145

COMMENTARY DISCUSSES SMUGGLING, OTHER TOPICS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 13 Feb 87 p 8

[Article by Masud Ahmad]

[Text]

Pakistan has been systematically hardened in the amorality of consumerism dinned into our heads during the past few years of our close embrace with America and the institutions sponsored by it which act as our mentors. These forces have created purely materialistic ambience here which is just not suited to the growth of Islamic morals. It can favour the growth of only greed, acquisitiveness and corruption at all levels. Watch the growth of our society. You don't have to travel to the Peshawar Bazaar now for purchasing smuggled luxuries. You find Bazaar at your doorstep now in every town. Your children are not going to have two lines from the Holy Quran, two lines from Hadis and two lines each from the sayings of the Quaid-e-Azam and Allama Iqbal with mournful music thrown in the background, printed on their minds. The daily pious fare of the PTV is drowned under lively jingles of bubble gums and candies and chocolates and wafers and fizzy drinks and 500 different flavours of teas, and fashion parades, and the cosmetics, all modelled by fair skinned usually blond Western children and young girls and boys. Watch any new plaza in Islamabad's markets. Nine out of 10 shops would go to fashion boutique, jewellery, video cassettes or fast food. Add to it the free influx of Mercedes and BMWs, etc, and it gives you a sure indicator of where we are going. I am closing my eyes to the plague

of heroin, the cult of dacoity in which police officers, medical men and students are getting sucked, or towards what is happening in Sind and Baluchistan and NWFP. I was confining myself purely to the play of economic forces which determine the ethos of a society. Do you see any shadow of Islam within miles of this scene?

Muttahida Shariat Mahaz had a stormy meeting in Peshawar last Friday. Fiery speeches were made. Very harsh words were used against the ruling elite by some of their erstwhile staunch supporters like Mian Tufail Mohammad, the Jamaat Amir. Ultimatum was given to the Government that "direct action" would be resorted to if the Shariat Bill was not passed by 27th of Ramzan. Could any one show the face of reality to that crowd, or speak the truth? Not a chance.

Incidentally, I read a statement of Iqbal Ahmad Khan, our ruler's Minister-at-large and General Secretary of the official Muslim League, accusing the Shariat Bill-walks of exploiting the name of Islam! We had to see this day.

Mr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan also figured in another news report. He was kind enough to apologise to the people of the area for the inconvenience, caused to them by holding the Muslim League meeting in the League's office at Davis Road. He had been informed that the Punjab

administration had kept the entire area enclosed by Davis Road, Habibullah Road and Sundar Das Road completely sealed off for 14 hours from 8 am to 10 p.m. Residents of the area were not allowed to stir out of their houses, not even to say their Juma prayers in the local mosque. A funeral procession was also not allowed to pass on the road where the league was holding its session. Minister Iqbal Khan said that he was sorry for what had happened and that it would not be repeated in future. No one else thought that any apology was called for. The local bosses were probably lost in exultation over having provided bether fool-proof security arrangements than the Kuwait rulers had done on the occasion of the OIC Summit recently.

The full bench of the Sind High Court has completed its hearing of constitutional petitions challenging the validity of military courts' decisions. Their judgement will affect the fate of hundreds of victims of the those courts' arbitrary verdicts. Kamran Rizvi, to take one conspicuous case, was condemned to 25 years in jail for distributing pamphlets demanding the end of the martial law and restoration of democracy. How many Rizvis and Minhases are rotting in jail, some in fetters in violation of all civilised norms and even jail rules? Compare their fate with the indulgence shown to those who commit one of most heinous crimes against mankind—trafficking in heroin. They are given one or two years which they are allowed to spend, in special cases, in private wards of big hospitals, air-conditioned and all that goes with it, where they can entertain friends and relatives, or, are conveniently allowed to escape.

Eleven gentlemen were caught in the dastardly trade, the National Assembly was informed by the Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, Colonel Herbert. Only

one of them was sent to prison (if at all) and that too for only two years. Others were asked to quietly

go home. They were not even drummed out, just dismissed from service. A heroin trader, with the poison selling at 200,000 dollars per kilo in the street in Europe and America, is usually not in need of a job.

No such kindness is shown to political prisoners. The painful aspect of their case is that according to authoritative reports none of them was arrested killing any human being or destroying any property. They just did not accept martial law as something ordained by heaven. Prime Minister Junejo, it has been shown now, had given a firm undertaking while bargain for the passage of the 8th Amendment that he would find ways of providing relief to hardship cases (as though there are "softship" cases too among political prisoners). But his promise like so many others got "committed", a fatal affliction. Concerned legislators like Senator Javed Jabbar are trying to resuscitate the issue. Let us all pray for their success this time.

Twenty thousand Palestinians besieged in Bourj Barajneh camp for 2½ months have asked their ulemas for special permission to eat human flesh. No cats or dogs are left in the camp.

Their besiegers are also Muslims. This is just eight days after the grandiose Islamic Summit at Kuwait, concerned with the problems facing the Ummah, specially Palestinian-related problems, passed a resolution calling for immediate ceasefire and cessation of attacks and lifting of the of the Palestinian camp.

Just waste of words, it appears. And millions spent on the fabulous arrangements on holding the Summit and looking after the guests. And the Palestinians in Beirut being driven to eating human flesh. Will Allah forgive us?

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CSO: 4600/144

MINISTER DEFENDS ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO LEGISLATORS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 4 Feb 87 pp 1, 8

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 3: Federal Finance Minister Mian Yasin Wattoo today vehemently denied reports that the aid-giving countries had opposed the creation of a development fund of Rs. 5 million for each member of Parliament, alleging that the assistance being provided by them was being misused as a result of this allocation.

He clarified that the special development fund being provided to the members was not part of the foreign assistance as it had been taken out of the country's own ADP.

Opposing a privilege motion sought to be moved by Javed Hashmi, Sheikh Rashid and Yaqub Khan on this subject, the Finance Minister also dispelled the impression that the money allocated for the members was actually handed over to them for direct spending.

He said such rumours were being spread by vested interests. The actual position was that the members had only to indicate their special development schemes in their respective areas. They had nothing to do with the actual implementation of these schemes which was the job of executing government agencies. He said it was not a political bribe. The members were utilising the fund placed at their disposal in a fair and honest manner and no complaint had so far been received against any member from any quarter.

Javed Hashmi, speaking on the admissibility of the motion, emphasised that calculated campaign has been initiated by the vested interests to defame the elected representatives of the people by spreading reports that the Government had given this huge amount of money to each of them as a political bribe

for their personal use. He said those who were conspiring against the civilian system were active on this front only to prove that martial law was better than a civilian order. He regretted that the Government did not promptly deny the reports. After the clarification of the Finance Minister, Javed Hashmi and Sheikh Rashid did not press their motions.

AGENCY ADDS:

The chair deferred another privilege motion sought to be moved by Mir Zafar Ullah Khan Jamali (Nasirabad) till Feb. 8. The mover in his motion said that the funds allocated for development schemes in his constituency had not been released so far which has caused breach of his privilege.

The Minister for Local Government and Rural Development, Chaudhry Anwar Aziz, said that the matter is being taken up with the Chief Minister and Chief Secretary of Baluchistan.

He sought a few days' time in this respect. The member was not satisfied by the reply of the Minister and contended that the matter was taken up 17 days earlier with the Minister. He charged the government with causing undue delay in the matter.

It was also negation of the statement of the Finance Minister made by him on the floor of the House, a few minutes ago that funds were being made available to all the Members of the National Assembly to take in hand the development programmes in their respective constituencies.

The Minister for Local Government maintained that as the funds had been sanctioned and released

by the Federal Government, the facts of the case could only be ascertained from the Baluchistan Government.

He requested the chair to defer the motion for four or five days, so that he could give a detailed reply to the motion.

The adjournment motion moved on the previous day in the House by several members regarding defective construction of Chashma Right Bank Canal in D.I. Khan, misappropriation of funds by officials and refusal of the Asian Development Bank to give more credit for its completion, was ruled out of order by the Deputy Speaker, Sardar Wazir Ahmad Jogezai, who observed that it was anticipatory and based on incorrect facts.

Some of the movers including Sh. Rashid Ahmad, Liaquat Baluch, Mumtaz Ahmad Tarar, Rae Ahmad Nawaz, Sahabzada Mohammad Ahmad and Maulana Gohar Rehman, pressed for admissibility of the motion, saying that the country had suffered huge loss due to defective construction of the project which was of great national importance and was meant for improving the economy of the under-developed areas of the NWFP. They also contended that WAPDA officials had changed its design and allegedly misappropriated money. The matter was of urgent public importance and should be discussed.

Three other movers, Malik Said Khan Masood, Malik Abdur Rauf, and Malik Mohammad Aslam Katichalla, did not press the motion following a statement of the Minister of Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Wasim Sajjad.

Wasim Sajjad while opposing the motion, said it was based on incorrect information and inferences, besides being anticipatory in nature. He explained that after completion of the first phase of the canal, water was released in it on trial basis to measure the ratio of water seepage. The seepage, which was a normal phenomenon, would help tilting up beds of the canal

which would strengthen its banks and also raise its bed.

He said the canal would pass through two flooding seasons before it was made fully operational. A drainage project costing Rs. 645 million, would also be undertaken for absorbing the seepage at a later stage with the completion of the whole project.

It was also incorrect, he said, that the Asian Development Bank had refused to pay credit for completion of the project. There was no such thing he said and requested the chair to rule the motion out of order.

The Minister later informed the House that the Prime Minister's inquiry committee headed by General (Retd) Abdul Majid had also taken cognisance of the matter.

Liaquat Baluch did not press his adjournment motion through which he wanted to raise the question of release of an American citizen serving a sentence for arms running and handing him over to the U.S. government in exchange for a Pakistani undergoing sentence in America on drugs charges after the Interior Minister Mohammad Aslam Khattak explained the facts.

The mover said that according to press reports an American Mr. Gleg, who had been sentenced to three years imprisonment by a military court for arms smuggling, had been released and handed over to the American government in exchange for an influential Pakistani who was undergoing a sentence for drug trafficking.

The Interior Minister said during the Martial Law regime Mr. Gleg had been convicted by a Military Court and sentenced to penal servitude. He was later handed over to the U.S. government where he was wanted, for serious cases of felony. No swapping of any kind was involved in this, he said.

The Minister told the mover that this was done under a normal procedure which Pakistan and all other countries followed in such cases with friendly nations.

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